

THE RED SEA; ISRAEL'S TRIUMPH OVER EGYPT

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-31; 15:1-21

LESSON 57 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 13:17-22

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

¹⁸ But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

²⁰ And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

²² He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.

Exodus 14:1-31

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Exodus from Egypt

1. God, considering Israel's human weakness, leads them through a wilderness, Exodus 13:17, 18; 14:11, 12;

Psalm 78:39

³⁹ For he remembered that they *were* but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

Psalm 103:6, 7, 13, 14

⁶ The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

¹³ Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

2. The bones of Joseph are taken with them, Exodus 13:19;

Genesis 50:25

²⁵ And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

Joshua 24:32

³² And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Acts 7:15, 16

¹⁵ So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

¹⁶ And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor *the father* of Sychem.

Hebrews 11:22

²² By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

3. God leads and protects them with a pillar of a cloud and in a pillar of fire, Exodus 13:20-22;

Numbers 9:15-23

¹⁵ And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, *namely*, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

¹⁶ So it was alway: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night.

¹⁷ And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.

¹⁸ At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents.

¹⁹ And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not.

²⁰ And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the

³ For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel,
They *are* entangled in the land,
the wilderness hath shut them in.
⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the LORD. And they did so.
⁵ And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?
⁶ And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:
⁷ And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.
⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.
⁹ But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.
¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.
¹¹ And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?
¹² *Is* not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For *it had been* better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the

commandment of the LORD they journeyed.

²¹ And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and *that* the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether *it was* by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed.

²² Or *whether it were* two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed.

²³ At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

II Pharaoh's Pursuit and the Israelites' Seemingly Hopeless Plight

1. Israel's route causes Pharaoh to think they are bewildered and lost, an easy prey for his armies, Exodus 14:1-4;

Numbers 33:1-8

¹ These *are* the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

² And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these *are* their journeys according to their goings out.

³ And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

⁴ For the Egyptians buried all *their* firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

⁵ And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.

⁶ And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which *is* in the edge of the wilderness.

⁷ And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pihahiroth, which *is* before Baalzephon: and they pitched before Migdol.

⁸ And they departed from before Pihahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah.

2. Pharaoh regrets his liberation of Israel and pursues them, Exodus 14:5-9.
3. The Children of Israel are fearful when they see Egypt's armies, Exodus 14:10-12;

Psalms 106:7

⁷ Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked *him* at the sea, *even* at the Red sea.

Isaiah 31:1

¹ Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because *they are* many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

4. Moses gives Israel a reassuring charge, Exodus 14:13, 14.

III The Deliverance from the Armies of Egypt

1. The Lord honours Moses' faith, instructing Israel to go forward, Exodus 14:15, 16;

Hebrews 11:29

²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

2. The final destructive judgment is sent to demonstrate the eternal existence and power of God, Exodus 14:17, 18;

Psalms 106:7-12

⁷ Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked *him* at the sea, *even* at the Red sea.

⁸ Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he

wilderness.

¹³ And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

¹⁴ The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

¹⁶ But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.

¹⁷ And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

¹⁹ And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

²⁰ And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness *to them*, but it gave light by night *to these*: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

²¹ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

²² And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the

might make his mighty power to be known.

⁹ He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

¹⁰ And he saved them from the hand of him that hated *them*, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

¹¹ And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

¹² Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

3. The pillar of fire is light to Israel but darkness to Egypt, Exodus 14:19, 20;

II Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴ Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

¹⁵ For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

¹⁶ To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

John 3:18

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Psalms 105:39

³⁹ He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

4. The waters are divided by the power of God, Exodus 14:21, 22;

Psalms 77:15-20

¹⁵ Thou hast with *thine* arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

¹⁶ The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.

¹⁷ The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.

¹⁸ The voice of thy thunder *was* in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹ Thy way *is* in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

²⁰ Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Job 26:10-12

¹⁰ He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

¹² He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

Isaiah 63:11-14

¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, *and* his people, *saying*, Where *is* he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where *is* he that put his holy Spirit within him?

¹² That led *them* by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

¹³ That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, *that* they should not stumble?

¹⁴ As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.

I Corinthians 10:1, 2

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

5. The overconfident Egyptians are trapped in the sea, Exodus

dry *ground*: and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

²³ And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, *even* all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

²⁴ And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

²⁵ And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

²⁶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

²⁷ And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

²⁸ And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, *and* all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

²⁹ But the children of Israel walked upon dry *land* in the midst of the sea; and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

³¹ And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD,

14:23-31.

IV The Song of Triumph

1. The deliverance from Pharaoh's last attempt at oppression causes Israel to fear the Lord and praise Him, Exodus 14:31; 15:1-3;

Psalms 66:5-7

⁵ Come and see the works of God: *he is* terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry *land*: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

⁷ He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

Revelation 15:1-4

¹ And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

² And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

³ And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints.

⁴ Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou* only *art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

2. They recount in their song the details of the miracle, Exodus 15:4-10.
3. A chorus of praise is inspired by this demonstration of God's power, Exodus 15:11-13.
4. A prophetic glimpse is given of the coming effect of this miracle on the nations of Canaan, Exodus 15:14-16;

Joshua 2:9-11

⁹ And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

¹¹ And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

5. An assurance of God's continued benevolence is given, guaranteed by His eternal existence, Exodus 15:17-19;

Isaiah 51:9-11

⁹ Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. *Art* thou not it that hath cut Rahab, *and* wounded the dragon?

¹⁰ *Art* thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

¹¹ Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy *shall* be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; *and* sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

6. The women of Israel sing a response of praise, Exodus 15:20, 21;

Micah 6:4

⁴ For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

and his servant Moses.

Exodus 15:1-21

¹ Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

² The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD *is* a man of war: the LORD *is* his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

⁵ The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

⁶ Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

⁷ And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, *which* consumed them as stubble.

⁸ And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, *and* the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

¹⁰ Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders?

¹² Thou stretchedst out thy right

NOTES:

Retributive Judgment

Perhaps during the long period of slavery in Egypt it seemed to the Israelites that the Lord did not hear their prayers. But God had put the tears of these slaves into His bottle and when the hour of doom rang out there was an answer for each of those diamond drops. Egypt had oppressed the Israelites for many years, but the time of retribution finally came. It seemed to be long in coming, but it was thorough when it came. The arrears, which had been accumulating for decades were all exacted from this last generation, who had not righted the wrongs of their predecessors but were happy to continue in them in order that they might also receive the illegal benefits of slavery -- a practice which has always met with God's disapproval.

It is well that we learn wisdom from these events. Retributive Providence, in punishing an evil, sometimes apparently lets the full judgment fall upon those who have the evil last in hand and who are determined to keep the evil at all costs. Jesus affirmed that on the Jews of His generation would come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom they slew between the Temple and the altar (**Matthew 23:35** ³⁵ That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.). We know, from the annals of secular history, that this was literally fulfilled; and the responsibility for the shedding of the Blood of Jesus was also laid upon the Jews, in the terrible massacre of the Jews at the destruction of Jerusalem. They would have averted this promised punishment by accepting Jesus as their Messiah, but they chose the alternative. The Egyptians of Moses' day might have enjoyed life and security for many years if they had honoured and obeyed the God of Israel; but, instead, they chose the way of evil.

The Beginning of the Journey

The direct route to Canaan would have been by the seacoast through the land occupied by the Philistines. But we are told in secular history that this route was garrisoned with Egyptian armies and there was also a great wall extending from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. Had the Israelites been obliged to commence their journey to the Promised Land by a military campaign, there is little room to doubt that they would have been discouraged, rebelled against Moses and Aaron, and returned to Egypt.

To avert this, God led them through a wilderness. They were a comparatively unorganised nation of slaves and needed the hardness and discipline that life in the wilderness would drive them to produce a generation equal to the task of conquering and settling a land already inhabited by powerful people. God led them in a roundabout way that He might call them to the slopes of the mount to hear the sound of His voice. God will take us to Heaven if we follow Him, but He has not promised to take us by the near way. One thing is sure: He will not lead us by the way of the "Philistines" or any others who would effect our ruin (**Romans 8:28** ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.).

If the Children of Israel had entered Palestine by the near way they would have missed a great deal of God's providence. The Song of Moses would never have been sung. Miriam's harp would have remained untuned. Elim, with its wells, and palms, would have been undiscovered to them; and Sinai, with its words of love and law, would have been unknown. The manna from Heaven would never have been given, and God's patience and goodness

hand, the earth swallowed them.

¹³ Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people *which* thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided *them* in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

¹⁴ The people shall hear, *and* be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

¹⁵ Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

¹⁶ Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be *as* still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, *which* thou hast purchased.

¹⁷ Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, *in* the place, O LORD, *which* thou hast made for thee to dwell in, *in* the Sanctuary, O Lord, *which* thy hands have established.

¹⁸ The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

¹⁹ For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry*land* in the midst of the sea.

²⁰ And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

²¹ And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

in the hour of trial would have been untasted by them.

The Children of Israel had faith and confidence that their leaving Egypt was forever and that their destination was the land of Canaan. This is demonstrated by the fact that they took the bones of Joseph with them. This was not relic worship on their part but a fulfilment of a promise made to Joseph that his bones would be buried with his own people.

The Pillar of a Cloud and of Fire

The Lord revealed Himself to Moses through the burning bush, and now He reveals Himself to the Israelites in a pillar of fire and of a cloud. This vast host of at least 3,000,000 must often have been spread over several miles of desert plains and mountain slopes, and they needed some signal that they could see from afar. The same thing that proved a blessing to the Israelites was a hindrance to the enemies of God's people. When the Egyptian armies neared the Israelites, the pillar went between them and was a light to the Children of Israel and darkness to the Egyptians. But still Pharaoh and his armies rushed on. There was nothing in their hearts that would heed God's warnings. The cup of their iniquity was full.

The Israelites were in what appeared to be a trap. The sea was in front, mountains on both sides, and the armies of Egypt behind. But even though their faith failed, Moses' confidence stood firm. He did not know just how God would deliver at first, but he knew God would! We believe from the way God spoke to Moses, that as soon as he reassured the Israelites that God would deliver them, he went to prayer asking that such assurance might be made real to them. God's answer was, "Wherefore criest thou unto me? ... go forward" -- and forward they went!

The Parted Sea

The rod was lifted and the proud waters of the sea were divided. A thunderstorm raged and the clouds poured out water, but the bed of the sea became dry ground (**Psalms 77:16-20**

¹⁶ The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. ¹⁸ The voice of thy thunder *was* in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. ¹⁹ Thy way *is* in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. ²⁰ Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.). What wonders are made possible through simple faith and absolute obedience! But no one can "go forward" in the strength of God until he has first "stood still" in his own helplessness. This miracle brought fear to the hearts of many of the Canaanites, for we read that they were still smitten by fear 40 years later (**Joshua 2:9-11** ⁹ And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.).

Some discount the story of the passage through the Red Sea by denying everything miraculous in it. They say that an unusually low tide and strong winds over shadow places made a ford for the people. But the whole account is given to us as a miracle, not only in the historical portions of Scripture, but in the inspired Psalms and songs of praise sung by Israel even today. If it were only the ordinary tidal action of the sea, and not a miracle, the action of the tides would have been better known to Pharaoh and

his generals than it was to Israel. A commander would not lead his armies into certain defeat when he had knowledge of the facts of wind and tide. It is absolutely unreasonable to believe that the whole affair could have been so executed to save all Israel and destroy all the Egyptians in the normal operation of natural forces.

The whole thing was an act of God's judgment upon Egypt and mercy to the Israelites. Those who decreed, years before, that all the male Children of the Hebrews should be drowned, were themselves destroyed in the pit they had destined for others (**Esther 7:10** ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.). God renders to every man according to his works. This act of God's omnipotence could not help but make the Egyptians acknowledge that the God of Israel was the only God and the true God. What they would not admit during the patient dealings of God with them in the past, they had to acknowledge, at least, in the hour of final calamity.

The Song of Moses

The first expression of Israel's national life was a glad burst of inspired song, known as the Song of Moses. It is, in addition to being a song of thanksgiving, a sublime prophecy foretelling the powerful effect of the destruction of Egypt's army on the nations all around. It tells of the future settlement of Canaan, the erection of the Temple and sanctuary on Mt. Zion, and the perpetuity of the dominion and worship of God.

Moses was a poet as well as a lawgiver. He not only wrote history, law, precept, and prophecy, but more than once he perpetuated them in the words of an inspired song. We are told that the Redeemed will sing the song of Moses in Heaven (**Revelation 15:3** ³ And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.). There were no songs of joy or eternal hope in Egypt because infidelity and unbelief have no such paeans of praise. Thank God for the fact that He has given His people this medium of praise and worship, that they might draw nearer to Him and closer to one another in bonds of fellowship by the singing of inspired words and melody. "Sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Lord lead Israel in the way of the wilderness?
2. What did the taking of the bones of Joseph out of Egypt indicate?
3. By what means did the Lord lead the Children of Israel during their years in the wilderness?
4. What did Pharaoh think had happened to the Israelites when he received word of the direction of their march?
5. Did the Egyptians remain grateful that the Israelites had left Egypt?
6. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians coming?
7. What advice did Moses give to the Israelites?
8. What command did God give Moses when Moses prayed for help?
9. Tell what happened to the Egyptians when they pursued the Israelites.
10. When are we to "stand still" and when are we to "go forward"?