

Crossing at the Red Sea

Exodus Chapter 14

Exd 14:1 **1) The Lord Prepares Israel** vs 1 - 18

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Exd 14:2 "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea.

- *The Number of theories of the location of the Red Sea Crossing is staggering.*
- *But, God knows exactly where they are and directs them accordingly.*



- A Photo
- *Chapter 13:18 and Chapter 15:14 call this body of water the "Red Sea"*
 - "Red Sea" in Hebrew is 'Yam Suph' yam = sea; suph = red This can also be interpreted "Reed Sea" Thus scholars have claimed the Northern Route of the Reed Sea the Exodus route due to it being more of a passable swamp rather than a deep sea.
 - Psalm 77:19+20 "Thy way [is] in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."
 - Isaiah 51:10 "[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?"
 - Isaiah 51:15 "But I [am] the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts [is] his name."
 - Psalm 136:13-15 "To him which divided the **Red sea** into parts: for his mercy [endureth] for ever: And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy [endureth] for ever: But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the **Red sea**: for his mercy [endureth] for ever."
 - 1 Kings 9:26 "And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which [is] beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom." King Solomon did not dock his nave in a swamp. Also Eloth in now the Gulf of Aqaba

- Acts 7:36 (Stephen) "He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the **Red sea**, and in the wilderness forty years." Calls the deliverance in the Red Sea which was greek. At that point he could have corrected the concept to read REED.
- Hebrews 11:29 "By **faith they passed through** the **Red sea** as by dry [land]: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." Again Greek says RED SEA and also that it was by FAITH they passed through. It took faith. It wasn't just easily walking through a swamp area.
- We need to put away these foolish reasoning by those who do not want to believe in God or do not want to believe in a miracles of God. Allow the scripture to prove that God worked an awesome deliverance so His Name would be great in all the earth.

- Exd 14:3 "For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'
- Exd 14:4 "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." And they did so.
- *God is guiding Israel to the exact place He wants them to be.*
 - *But to Pharaoh it looks as thon the are aimless and trapped*
- Exd 14:5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"
- *Pharaoh realizes that Egypt is in ruins and needs Israel as slaves to rebuild*
- Exd 14:6 So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him;
- Exd 14:7 and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the {other} chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.
- Exd 14:8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly.
- *Josephus indicates that there were 50,000 Chariots and 200,000 marching soldiers*
- Exd 14:9 Then the Egyptians chased after them {with} all the horses {and} chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.
- Exd 14:10 As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.
- *Israel became VERY frightened. Here they are exactly where God wants them and Israel's eyes are on the world coming at them. Fear come in.*
- Exd 14:11 Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?"
- Exd 14:12 "Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."
- *Israel looses hope and complains to Moses.*
 - *Ever been there?*
 - *"God you said if I gave that money that _____. But now I'm financially worse."*
 - *"God you said to pray for others and I'd be healed. When?"*
 - *"God you said to go in ministry and I'd be fulfilled. It's still work"*

- *Psalm 46:1-3* "God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; [Though] the waters thereof roar [and] be troubled, [though] the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah."

Exd 14:13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever.

Exd 14:14 "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."

- *Moses' instructions are:*
 - *Do Not Fear*
 - *Stand Still*
 - *See*
 - *Be Quiet*
- *When we are in crisis*
 - *DISPAIR will cause us to fall down & not stand*
 - *FEAR will cause us to retreat*
 - *IMPATIENCE & PRESUMPTION will cause us to do something / anything even foolish things.*

- *We are missing a piece here. Moses calms the people. Instructs them to have confidence in the Lord God then goes off by himself and whines to God.*

Exd 14:15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward.

- *Israel is trapped between the sea and the Egyptian Army. Moses has to calm down a panicking Israel.*
- *So God instructs Moses to tell Israel to move forward. (Wouldn't you like to be Moses)*
- *God is telling Moses there is a time for CRYING OUT to God but then there is a time for action. Now was a time for action.*

Exd 14:16 "As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.

- *AS FOR YOU - just stick out your staff and hand and part the sea and all Israel can cross over.*
- *4 x in this passage (v 16, v 21, v 26, v 27) it says Moses will stretch out his hand. This is the picture of our obedience to God's Word. We all understand that it is not Moses' power that accomplished this deliverance. It is the Lord. Yet, God is committed to using human agency to accomplish His will.*

Exd 14:17 "As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.

- *AS FOR ME - I'll harden Pharaoh's heart.*
- *So you want to be in Church Leadership. Examine who you deal with in ministry::*
 - *People - unappreciative and fickle*
 - *Pharaoh - against you, doesn't believe you, want to stop you*
 - *Yourself - sense of not really leading anything, and the objective is impossible anyway*
 - *God - asks you to do the craziest things.*

Exd 14:18 "Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen."

Exd 14:19 **2) The Lord Saved Israel** vs 19 - 31

The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.

Exd 14:20 So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.

- *The pillar that had been leading them moved around to behind them.*
- *NKJV = "Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other," This pillar was double sided. On the side towards Israel was light, but the side towards Egypt is darkness.*
- *Speaks of a few things:*
 - *God will come between us and harm*
 - *God's Word (that which give us direction) will be a light unto our path but is indiscernible to those who are unregenerate.*
 - *The same pillar that protected Israel was a sign to Egypt to repent. Had they not hardened their heart they might have been spared.*

Exd 14:21 Then **Moses stretched out his hand** over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea {back} by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

Exd 14:22 The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters {were like} a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- *This is truly a miracle. The waters divided into a wall on the left and on the right. It wasn't just a land bridge where the wind blew and dried up the water. The water stood up like walls.*
- *This was a long crossing. Imagine 2 million people crossing a 6 mile stretch at the Gulf of Aqaba.*
- *This was a night crossing. The pillar by night (v 20) The wind blew all night (v 21) At the morning watch, the Egyptians began their pursuit (v 23 + 24 + 27)*

Exd 14:23 Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea.

Exd 14:24 At the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion.

Exd 14:25 He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

- *THE LORD...BROUGHT THE ARMY OF THE EGYPTIANS INTO CONFUSION*
 - *James 3:16 "For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work."*
 - *Judges 7 When Gideon went up against Midian the Lord instructed the 300 to attack the Midian camp at night with trumpets and a pitcher with a candle in it. The surrounded the larger army, blew the trumpet and broke the pitchers and the Midians were confused, panicked and slew each other. "the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow,"*
 - *1 Cor 14:33 "For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. " God is not the author of this confusion. But it is His grace that stays the confusion in the life of the believer and unbeliever alike. In the account of the Egyptians and the Midians, God lifts His grace and the fruit of evil has freedom to drive men mad with confusion and be destroyed. It is an ultimate fruit of man's evil heart.*
- *HE CAUSED THEIR CHARIOT WHEELS TO SWERVE - KJV says He took off their chariot wheels.*
- *They became difficult to drive because they became sleds or the image is that they sank into the ground and made the wheels useless. Either way, the speed of the chariot was nullified by the Lord.*
- *The Egyptians realize they are fighting against the Lord. They are ready to retreat. This is not repentance. These are fleeing from His presence not bowing their knee to Him.*

What is the difference between retreat and repentance?

Exd 14:26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Stretch out your hand** over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen."

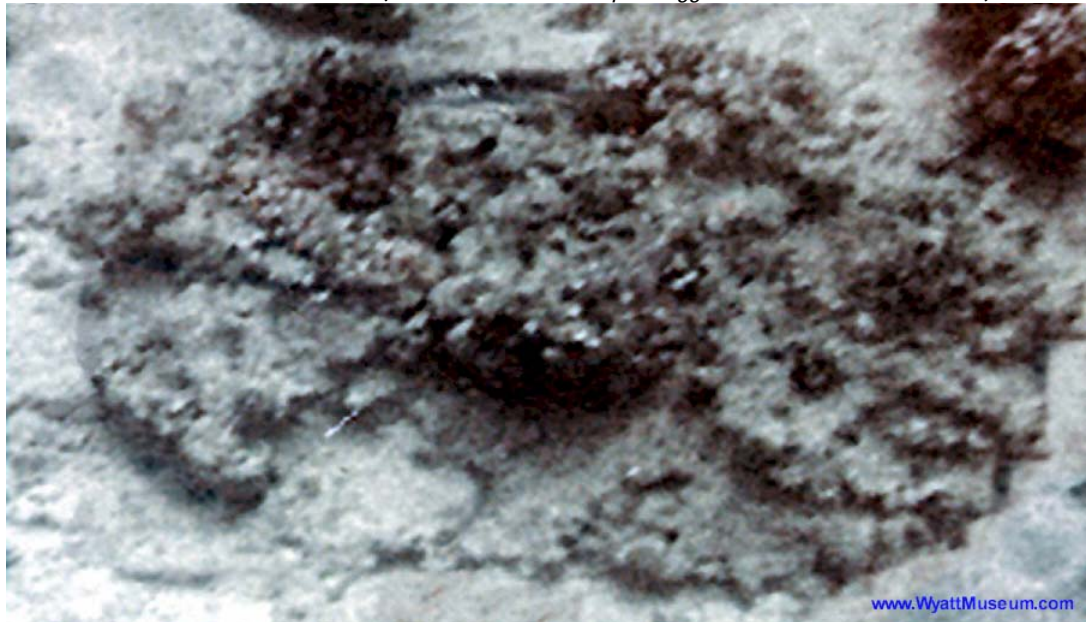
Exd 14:27 So **Moses stretched out his hand** over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the LORD overthrew the

Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Exd 14:28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained.

- *Moses again obeyed the Lord and "stretched out his hand" and the sea returned when the water walls collapsed.*
- *The Egyptians were yet in the midst of crossing.*
- *So devastating was the collapse upon the Egyptians that not one of them survived.*

- *Possible Chariot wheel in Red Sea (notice the round shape, suggests man made not nature)*



Exd 14:29 But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters {were like} a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Exd 14:30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Exd 14:31 When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

- *The Lord Saved Israel That Day -Imagine that morning. The Israelites were up all night fleeing, and they had seen God display great power over those who had oppressed them for 400 years.*
- *The dead Egyptians floated to the shore. 200,000 marching men 50,000 chariots. Lots of bodies. (the Titanic dead was 1513 rescuers said the sea was "littered with bodies" This was 1513 in an ocean)*
- *The People Feared the Lord - He is capable of great destruction.*
- *They Believed the Lord -*
- *And Believed His Servant Moses - benefit from Moses stretching out his hand*

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