

Exodus 14 - Pharaoh Pursues; Parting the Red Sea

I. Exodus from Egyptian bondage: Israel's redemption, liberation, and preservation (Ex 1:1—18:27)

(2) Liberation (Ex 12:31—15:21)

(C) From Succoth to Etham to Pi-hahiroth (Ex 13:17—14:2)

(b) Journey from Etham to Pi-hahiroth (14:1-2)

(D) Red (Reed) Sea crossing (Ex 14:3—15:21)

(a) Pharaoh's pursuit (14:3-14)

(b) Israel's passage through the Red (Reed) Sea (14:15-22)

(c) Egypt drowns in the Red (Reed) Sea (14:23-31)

Exodus 14

(b) Journey from Etham to Pi-hahiroth (14:1-2)

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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1 The LORD told Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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

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.

2 "Tell the Israelis that they are to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. You are to camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it by the sea.

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.

- "...turn back" - while the exact location of Pi-hahiroth and Migdol are unknown, it appears that the Lord's intention was to give Pharaoh the appearance that the Israelites started one way and then another, did not know where they were going and would be ready prey for recapture or destruction (Cf. v3).

- "...sea" - *yam sup*, from the Hebrew root meaning "end" (not Egyptian root meaning "reed"); it describes the "Red Sea" not the "Reed Sea"

— The Hebrew phrase *yam sup* literally means the "Sea at the End"; it was used by the ancients to describe the body of water that lay beyond the farthest lands known to them, the "sea at the end of the world."

— It clearly refers to the Red Sea throughout the OT (Ex 15:4; Num 21:4; 33:8; Joshua 2:10; 4:23; 1 Kings 9:26; Jer 49:21, et al)

(D) Red (Reed) Sea crossing (Ex 14:3—15:21)

(a) Pharaoh's pursuit (14:3-14)

3 For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'

3 For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'

3 Pharaoh will say about the Israelis, 'They're wandering aimlessly in the land, and the desert has closed in on them.'

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**, 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.

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.

4 I've made Pharaoh's heart stubborn so he will pursue them. But I'll receive honor by means of Pharaoh and his army, so that the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So this is what the Israelis did.

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.

- "...I will harden Pharaoh's heart" - Moses recorded that God hardened Pharaoh's heart 3x in this chapter (v4,8,17)

- God's second intention was to lure the Egyptians into a trap, first by hardening Pharaoh's heart again, then by defeating Pharaoh and his forces, who were sure to come down with vengeance on the apparently helpless Israelites.

— Like a master chess player, God induces Pharaoh to move his king into checkmate, and Pharaoh doesn't even realize it

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 *that* we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

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?"

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done in releasing Israel from serving us?"

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 So he had *horses* harnessed to his chariot and took his people with him;

6 So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him;

6 So Pharaoh had his chariot prepared and took his troops with him.

6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

7 and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

7 and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

7 He took 600 of the best chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers in charge of each one.

7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

8 So **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.

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.

8 The LORD made the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, stubborn, and he defiantly pursued the Israelis as they were leaving.

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 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.

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.

9 The Egyptians pursued them—all the chariot-horses of Pharaoh, along with his horsemen and army—and they overtook them camped by the sea, near Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal Zephon.

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 As Pharaoh approached, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were coming after them, and they became very frightened; so **the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.**

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.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelis looked up, and there were the Egyptians bearing down on them! Extremely frightened, the Israelis cried out to the LORD.

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.

- "...the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD" - this is the first time the Israelites cried out to God en masse

— Isn't it remarkable what a dire predicament will do to your proud, independent spirit?

— God always get the glory when we let Him put us where only He can deliver us. Then we can sing His glorious praise as Israel did (Cf. Ex 15; Ps 116:12-13; 40:1-3)

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?"

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?"

11 They also told Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you took us out to die in the desert? What have you done to us, by bringing us out of Egypt?"

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?

- This is the first of the many complaints against the Lord and Moses recorded in Scripture; it is probably the first of 10 incidents of complaining that culminated in God's judgment of them at Kadesh Barnea (Cf. Num 14:22-23)

— However, the Israelites have already shown a penchant for opposing both Moses, and God (Cf. 2:14; 5:20-21)

You know the human response to panic? First, we are afraid. Second, we run. Third, we fight. Fourth, we tell everybody. God's counsel is just the opposite. Don't be afraid. Stand still. Watch Him work. Keep quiet. It's then that He does it. He takes over! He handles it exactly opposite the way we'd do it. The Lord just taps His foot, waiting for us to wait. [Chuck Swindoll]

12 Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness!"

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."

12 Is this not what we told you in Egypt, when we said, 'Leave us alone!' and 'Let us serve the Egyptians!'? Indeed, it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

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 wilderness.

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

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.

13 Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid! Stand still and watch how the LORD will deliver you today, because you will never again see the Egyptians whom you're looking at today.

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 will fight for you, while you keep silent."
14 The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."
14 The LORD will fight for you while you keep still."
14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

(b) Israel's passage through the Red (Reed) Sea (14:15-22)

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

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

15 Then the LORD told Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelis to move out!

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

- The time for prayer was over...Moses needed to act (Cf. Joshua 7:6-13)

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

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.

16 You are to raise your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it, so the Israelis may go into the middle of the sea on dry land.

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 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.

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.

17 Even now I'm hardening the heart of the Egyptians so they'll go after the Israelis. Then I'll receive honor by means of Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.

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

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

18 Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I receive honor by means of Pharaoh, his chariots, and 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 Then 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.

19 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.

19 Then the angel of God, who was going in front of the camp of Israel, moved behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them and stood behind them,

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 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. Therefore the one did not approach the other all night.

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.

20 coming between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud remained there even in the darkness, illuminating the night, so that the one side did not come near the other all night.

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.

- The cloud became a source of light to the Israelites, but darkness to the pursuing Egyptians

— The angel switched from guiding Israel to guarding Israel

21 Then Moses reached out with 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, and the waters were divided.

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.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD caused the water to retreat by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. As the waters were divided,

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 So 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 and on their left.

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.

22 the Israelis went into the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters formed a wall for them on their right and on their left.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

(c) Egypt drowns in the Red (Reed) Sea (14:23-31)

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.

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.

23 The Egyptians pursued—all the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen—and they went into the middle of the sea after them.

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 But 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.

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.

24 In the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian camp through the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian camp into confusion.

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 He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians *each* said, "Let me flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

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."

25 He made the wheels of their chariots wobble so that they drove them with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let's flee from Israel because the LORD is fighting for them and against us."

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove 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 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out with your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen."

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."

26 Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea and the water will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots, and over their horsemen."

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.

- Evidently the Lord sent a rainstorm after the Israelites had crossed safely (Cf. Ps 77:17-18)

27 So Moses reached out with 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.

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.

27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the water returned to its normal depth at daybreak. The Egyptians tried to retreat in front of the advancing water, but the LORD destroyed the Egyptians in the middle of the sea.

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

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.

28 The water returned, covering the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's entire army that had pursued the Israelis into the sea. Not a single one of them remained.

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.

- Why did God drown the Egyptian army in the Red Sea? Remember what the Egyptians did to the Hebrew children in Ex 2...they drown them in the Nile River.

— Another outworking of Gen 12:3... "I will curse those who curse you"

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 and on their left.

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.

29 But the Israelis walked through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the water stood like a wall for them on their right and on their left.

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 So the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

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

30 On that day the LORD delivered Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead along the seashore.

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 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.

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.

31 When Israel saw the great force by which the LORD had acted against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed the LORD and Moses his servant.

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

- "...believed" - the Israelites saved out of Egypt were a redeemed, but unsanctified people
- The Hebrew construction of "believed" is the same used in Gen 15:6 describing Abraham's salvation