

Exodus

Yahweh prepares for the final showdown with Pharaoh.

- God directs Moses to lead the Israelites into what appears to be a trap.
- God again revealed to Moses what He was about to do.
 - Pharaoh and his servants will come to the conclusion that the Israelites are aimlessly wondering in the wilderness. Often when we lose sight of the fact that God is always working His purpose we can draw a similarly erroneous conclusion.
 - Pharaoh will pursue the Israelites but it will result in God again revealing His glory and the Egyptians will know He is Yahweh.

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- The Egyptians responded exactly as God foretold.
- Pharaoh and his servants began to think of the fact that they had expelled the bulk of their workers from their land. When we think of how impactful some major labor strikes have had on our country this would pale in comparison to what the Egyptians would now experience.
- Yahweh again hardens Pharaoh's heart one last time.
- Now the most powerful military might of the world is launched against the unprepared and ill-equipped Israelites.

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- The people's response:
 - Fear
 - Regret
 - Accusation and blame

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- Based on the revelation God has already given him, Moses instructs the people:
 - Do not fear the Egyptians
 - Stand firm in the promises of God
 - Witness the salvation that is totally beyond their abilities but which God will graciously provide
 - Assurance that God would make a complete end of the Egyptians.

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- Crossing the Red Sea
 - Note that when God has revealed what to do the time of prayer is over and it is time for action.
 - The people are told to move forward toward the sea before it was parted. This is the way God most often leads us. We obey the clear revelation of God and God provides the way.
 - Moses instructed to lift his staff and God will divide the sea.
 - Again, God reveals that He will use this to show His glory over the Egyptians and they will know that He is Yahweh.
 - God used the cloud to bring darkness on the Egyptians and light to the Israelites to give them time to cross the sea.

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- Crossing the Red Sea
 - The Israelites crossed on what is described as dry ground.
 - The Egyptians enter the sea in pursuit. Chariots were heavy, often described as made from iron, as they progressed in the sea the ground became unstable and the chariots began to get stuck.
 - The recognition that Yahweh was fighting against them came too late. Moses was commanded to stretch his staff back over the water and it came back together over the Egyptians.

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- Crossing the Red Sea the clear facts:
 - The distance across the sea required several hours (all night).
 - The depth of the water is indicated by the description that it was like a wall on either side of them. The Hebrew word here for wall denotes a massive wall such as the wall of a city.
 - The water was of sufficient width and depth to engulf the whole Egyptian army which consisted of at least 600 chariots in addition to other chariots, horsemen and foot soldiers.
 - The body of water was big enough that those who tried to swim for it could not make it and their bodies washed up on the seashore.
 - We are not told if Pharaoh was among them. Perhaps he and a small security detachment watched on the opposite shore as the last vestige of his kingdom, his military might, evaporated before his eyes.

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- Crossing the Red Sea
 - Israel's response
 - Their fear of Yahweh grew
 - Their faith in Yahweh and trust in Moses grew
 - They celebrated the victory in worship and song.
 - This is the first worship song recorded in Scripture
 - The visible destruction of the Egyptian army was the defining moment of the realization that their deliverance from generations of oppression was complete.

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 - Israel's response
 - They celebrated the victory in worship and song.
 - This song (psalm) as many of the future ones help the people remember what God has done and what His deeds reveal about Who He is.

• My Strength 1-2	Steadfast in love 13
• The focus of my praise 2	Redeemer 13
• My Warrior 3-10	Faithful 13-17
• Peerless 11-12	Eternal 18

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 - Israel's response
 - They celebrated the victory in worship and song.
 - Miriam, Moses' sister, instilled the song in the minds of the people through leading the women in song and dancing.