



The Exodus

Lesson 6: The Israelites Leave Egypt

(Exodus 13:17-15:21)

When Pharaoh let the people of Israel go after the death of all the firstborn in Egypt, God kept His promise and led them out of Egypt. Since He did not want the people to change their minds if they fought in war against the Philistines and turn back to Egypt, God led them toward the Red Sea. The Israelites also remembered the promise that had been made to Joseph and brought his bones out of Egypt – just as God had promised.

God led the Israelites from Egypt to Rameses, then to Succoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, besides children (Exodus 12:37). From Succoth, God led the Israelites to Etham. God constantly went before them as they journeyed. During the daytime, God led them by a cloud shaped like a column or pillar. During the nighttime, God led them in a pillar of fire.

Then, God told Moses to have the Israelites turn back and camp in front of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. This would cause Pharaoh to think the Israelites were lost in the wilderness. Then, God would harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would chase after them. Through this, God would receive glory over Pharaoh and his army and all the Egyptians would know that God is Lord. The Israelites listened and did what God had said.

When Pharaoh heard that the Israelites had left, Pharaoh and his servants changed their minds about letting them leave. So, Pharaoh got his chariot and his army ready. He took 600 of the best chariots and all the rest of the chariots in Egypt, with officers in each one, and he chased the Israelites.

As Pharaoh caught up with the Israelites, the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming after them and were terrified. They cried out to God for help and asked why Moses had brought them into the wilderness to die. They pleaded to return to Egypt rather than die in the wilderness. However, Moses told them not to be afraid. He told

them to stand still and see how the Lord was going to save them, for the Lord was going to fight for them in a way that they would never see again.

The Lord told Moses to tell the Israelites to move forward. He was to lift up his staff and stretch it out over the sea and divide it. God said that the Israelites would cross the Red Sea on dry ground and the Egyptians would follow them.

The Angel of God who had led the Israelites moved to the back and the pillar of cloud stood behind them. So, it came between the Egyptians and the Israelites. God caused darkness to come upon the Egyptians and light on the Israelites so that neither group could go to the other all night.

Then, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God caused a great east wind to divide the waters so that the Israelites could pass through on dry ground all night. The Israelites passed through the sea with a wall of water on the right side and another on the left side.

The Egyptians chased after the Israelites and went into the sea on the dry land also. But, in the morning, God looked down at the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and made it hard for them to chase after the Israelites, even making the chariots hard to drive. When this happened, the Egyptians said that they needed to get away from Israel because God was fighting for them!

Then, God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea so that the waters would fall on the Egyptians. When Moses did this, the sea returned to how it was before. So, the Lord defeated the Egyptians who were chasing Israel so that not one of them lived.

When the Israelites saw this, they praised God! Moses and the Israelites sang a song to God about how He had saved them and defeated the Egyptians, remembering the promises God had made to them. Then, Miriam (sister to Moses and Aaron) also joined in the praises.

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Study Questions:

- 1) What did the Israelites bring out of Egypt? Why did they bring this?

- 2) How many men came out of Egypt?

- 3) How did God lead the Israelites? Where did God lead them?

- 4) Why did Pharaoh and his servants chase the Israelites?

- 5) What stood between the Israelites and the Egyptians? How did this help the Israelites?

- 6) What did God tell Moses to do to the sea?

- 7) What happened to the Egyptians who followed them?

- 8) Why did the Israelites praise God?

Memory Verse:

“Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses” (Exodus 14:31).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: