

(Exod. 13:17-22) - As the Israelites went out of Egypt, they were guided and protected by God. It was God's plan not to lead them the shortest way through the land of the Philistines but through a longer way to bring them to the Red Sea. God could have defeated the war-like Philistines and protected His people, but He knew the sinfulness of the people. He knew that if confronted by such warriors, they would repent and desire to go back to Egypt. Verse 19 states how Moses fulfilled Joseph's oath to have his bones taken to the Promised Land with his brothers (*Gen. 50:22-26; cf. Heb. 11:22*). This foreshadowed the hope of resurrection revealed more clearly later on in Scripture. This was a great expression of God-given faith in Christ Who is our resurrection and life (*John 11:25*). God could resurrect Joseph no matter where Joseph was buried, but this is a spiritual lesson to teach that there is no life in Egypt, the land of bondage and death. There is only life with the people of God in Christ.

The Lord (the Angel of the Lord - *Exod. 14:19*) then went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This allowed them to travel by day and by night. This guiding body was not merely symbolic. It was a real, physical miracle of God, and later we see that God used this pillar to lead them in the forty years they wandered in the wilderness. This pillar was also a testimony to other nations concerning God's involvement with and protection of His people Israel. The pillar certainly pictures Christ's faithfulness and the safety, security, and protection of Christ for His church as He will never leave or forsake us, and He will keep us unto glory (*Heb. 13:5-6; 2 Tim. 1:12; Jude 24-25*).

(Exod. 14:1-9) - God again hardened Pharaoh's heart. This was God's sovereign right and His purpose to show forth His glory and power to the Egyptians. This is an issue that causes many people to deny the God of the Bible by accusing Him of being unfair and unjust. But the only answer God gives us of His mysterious ways in dealing with some in condemnation and some in salvation is found in *Romans 9:15-23*. Our response to these great truths should be to seek the Lord and seek the way He has provided for His chosen people in and by the Lord Jesus Christ (*Rom. 9:30-10:4*). God has a people whom He has chosen to save by His grace through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He tells us that all who reject Christ and His way of salvation shall perish. He tells us that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. He tells us that all who call upon His name do so because He has given them spiritual life and the gift of faith to receive and believe in Christ (*John 1:12-13*). God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh hardened his own heart. He gathered his army and went after the Israelites.

(Exod. 14:10-12) - God had brought the Israelites to the place where He wanted them. It was a place of no hope within themselves. Pharaoh and his army were behind them and the Red Sea was before them. Their only hope of deliverance was to turn to God alone, to cast themselves upon God's mercy and power. But, like all people by nature, instead of turning to God and casting themselves upon His mercy, they complained in unbelief and even expressed a desire to return to Egypt.

(Exod. 14:13-14) - Moses's instructions to the people can be summed up very simply - TRUST IN THE LORD AND LEAN NOT TO YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. It is a message based upon what God had promised the people of their deliverance from the Egyptians and their safety with Him. "*Fear not*" means do not fear what Pharaoh and his army can do. They were to fear (respect and revere) God, not man. "*Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD*" means to cease trying to figure or work their way out of this dilemma. When they could find no hope in themselves but only in God, they would then be in a good place. God promised that

He would defeat the Egyptians, and they would “*see them again no more for ever.*” This would all be the work of God for them - “*The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*”

“*Salvation*” here is the same word, “*yeshua,*” that is translated as “*Joshua*” and, later in the Greek New Testament, “*Jesus.*” Here, we see a great picture of eternal salvation for sinners by God’s grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. By nature, we all try to figure out and work for a way out of the problem of sin and death. We become religiously busy and worry if we have believed enough or done enough to attain eternal salvation. In the Gospel, God commands us to stand still and cease from our labors. He commands us not to fear men but to fear God and enter into HIS rest which is found in the grace, power, and goodness of God in Christ (*Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 4:1-11*). Christ fought for His people and defeated all enemies - sin, death, Satan, and the world. God will not charge us with our sin. He will remember them no more, and we who are in Christ will never see them again as we stand before God in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us (*Heb. 10:18-22*).

(Exod. 14:15-31) - This is the account of the final act of God delivering His people from the Egyptians by the parting of the Red Sea. This is a great example of the saving power of Almighty God in keeping His promise to Abraham. God prophesied to Abraham that his descendants would become slaves in a foreign nation for 400 years, but God promised to deliver them (*Gen. 15:14*). This great deliverance occurred as God parted the Red Sea, allowing the children of Israel to pass through safely on dry ground, but drowning Pharaoh and his army under the sea. The greater lesson we should learn from all this is the story of God redeeming His elect through the red sea of the blood of Jesus Christ in redeeming His people from their sins. This exodus from Egypt, though a real, historical event, prefigures the saving work of Christ for His people. What God did through Moses for the nation Israel was to provide physical salvation from physical slavery. What God has done through Christ for spiritual Israel is provide spiritual salvation from spiritual slavery (*John 8:34-36*). The passing through the Red Sea is a symbol of the believer’s identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (*1 Cor. 10:1-4*). Just as the Israelites were “*baptized into Moses,*” all who have been given the gift of faith in Christ have been “*baptized into Jesus Christ*” (*Rom. 6:4-7; Gal. 3:26-29*).

Just as the red blood of the Passover lamb meant death to the Egyptians and life to the Israelites, the Red Sea also meant death to the Egyptians and life for the Israelites. Here we see in picture and type the true and living God through the Lord Jesus Christ executing judgment and justice for both those who live and die in unbelief and for His chosen people whom He brings to faith in Christ. For those who die in their sin, it is the judgment of eternal damnation for their sins. For those who die in Christ, it is eternal life based on the blood of Christ. In the case of God’s elect, this is the glory of God as both a just God and a Savior (*Isa. 45:20-22; Jer. 23:5-6*). Because of the red sea of Christ’s blood, we who believe in Him have a righteousness that answers the demands of God’s law and justice. For all who stand before God in Christ, it can be said, “the sins that we have seen today, we shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord has fought for us, and we shall hold our peace.”

Verse 31 states, “*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.*” This is what God the Holy Spirit does for God’s people in the new birth. He brings us to see with the eye of God-given faith what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross to put away our sins and establish righteousness for us. He brings us to fear the Lord with a reverence of His glory and to believe the Lord and His true servants who preach the true Gospel of His free and sovereign grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.