

The Departure from Egypt

Exodus 12-14

At midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt. There was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. Pharaoh rose up in the night. He summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up, go out from among my people!"

The people of Israel journeyed, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" The Egyptians pursued them and overtook them encamped at the sea.

The people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and the Egyptians were marching after them. The people of Israel cried out to the LORD. Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel crossed the sea on dry ground.

The Egyptians pursued them into the midst of the sea. The LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot¹ wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians." The waters returned and covered all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians.

Explanatory Notes

¹Two-wheeled wagons.



"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD."

For Reflection

1. What visual reminder of His presence among them did God give to His people?
2. God's salvation of His people during the exodus from Egypt points to the even more dramatic rescue God later provided all people in Jesus. Tell about how Jesus rescued you at Calvary.
3. Are there times when you feel like you're caught between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea? Why need you not be afraid?

Words to Remember

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. *Hebrews 11:29*