

Exodus 14:1-31 **Crossing the Red Sea**

¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' ⁴ "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

⁵ Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and 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 made ready his chariot and took his people with him. ⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. ⁹ So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your 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 I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

²¹ Then 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 into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels,

so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." ²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ 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. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Yehowah commanded Moses to have Israel camp in front of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, across from Baal Zephon.
- ✧ This location has been discovered by archeologists as being the area known as the Nuweiba Peninsula, located about one third of the way from the north shore of the Gulf of Elot (Gulf of Aqaba) toward the southern end that opens into the Red Sea. Both east and west gulfs are also called the Red Sea as they are extensions of the Red Sea on both sides of the Sinai Peninsula.
- ✧ The Nuweiba Peninsula is located almost due west of the mountain called Jabal Al Lawz in the land of Midian called Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai in the Bible. Much archeological evidence has been found at that mountain.
- ✧ The Egyptians had military outposts all over the Sinai Peninsula and thus were able to monitor the travels of the Israelites and reported to Pharaoh that they had turned south off of the trade rout to Midian and therefore they were considered to be lost and bewildered by the land, saying, "The wilderness has closed them in."
- ✧ God said that He would harden Pharaoh's heart to pursue Israel so that God might gain honor over Pharaoh and his army and that the Egyptians might know for certain that God is Yehowah. [Exodus 14:4]
- ✧ So Yehowah did harden Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh pursued after the Children of Israel with a great army.
- ✧ This is the fourth time God Himself hardened Pharaoh's heart as He said He would, for the purpose of demonstrating to the world that there is none as great in power as God Himself, in all the earth. [Exodus 4:21, 7:3, 9:8-12, 9:14, 10:1, 14:8]
- ✧ The Children of Israel panicked when they saw the great Egyptian army approaching and cutting off any visible rout of escape, and said, "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."
- ✧ This is the exact reaction God expected when He decided not to take them to the land of Canaan by the shorter way of the land of the Philistines. [Exodus 13:17]
- ✧ God brought them the way He did, was so that when it was over Israel and the Egyptians would certainly know the power of God. [Exodus 6:6-7, Exodus 10:1-3, Exodus 14:4]
- ✧ Moses believed God after all he had seen and from what God had said about their location, so Moses was able to stand firm with confidence when he said, "Stand still and see the salvation

of Yehowah, which He will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. Yehowah will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

- ✧ Yehowah said, “Why do you cry to Me?” That is similar to Jesus question to His disciples when they thought the ship would sink, when He said, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith.” [\[Matthew 8:26\]](#)
- ✧ Then Yehowah gave instructions for parting the Sea so Israel could go through on dry ground. Then He again gave the reason so we might not miss it, “I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians will know that I am Yehowah, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”
- ✧ God viewed His victory over Pharaoh and his armies as the thing that will gain Him honor in the sight of the Egyptians so they would clearly know that He is God.
- ✧ His victory over His enemies will gain Him honor the same way after the Great Tribulation and the Judgment Seat of Christ, but it will not save His enemies who remain hard hearted to the death any more than it saved the Egyptians.
- ✧ Truly it is better to believe God’s Word before you suffer the consequences of your stubbornness, because then it will be too late to repent.
- ✧ It is a painful thing to be made an example by God to the world as He did with Sodom and Gomorrah, and here with the Egyptians, with the same purpose, to let the world know that God is God and He will judge wickedness. [\[2 Peter 2:4-6, Jude 1:5-7\]](#)
- ✧ The pillar of the presence of Yehowah moved between the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, it was a cloud and darkness on the Egyptian side, and a pillar of fire and light on the Israelite side. So the Egyptians could not approach Israel all night.
- ✧ Moses stretched out his hand and Yehowah divided the Sea and sent a strong east wind all that night that dried the ground. So the Children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on the right side and on the left.
- ✧ In the morning the entire army of the Egyptians pursued and went into the midst of the sea.
- ✧ Yehowah looked through the pillar of fire and cloud and took off the chariot wheels.
- ✧ The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for Yehowah fights for them against the Egyptians.”
- ✧ At God’s command, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the waters came back to their full depth over the Egyptians while the Egyptians were still in the midst of the sea.
- ✧ Israel saw the dead Egyptians on the seashore.
- ✧ The Children of Israel saw the great work Yehowah had done in Egypt, so the people feared Yehowah, and believed Yehowah and His servant Moses.