

Moses – part 13

The Lord parted the Red Sea to save Israel

by Victor Torres

Israel celebrated their freedom from slavery by eating bread without yeast. We learned that eating is a symbol of learning the truths of God's words. And Israel was instructed not to eat the passover meal with foreigners.

Exo 12:43 (CEV) The LORD gave Moses and Aaron the following instructions for celebrating Passover: **No one except Israelites may eat the Passover meal.**

This is a symbol of God's command to Christ's elect not to waste time teaching the words of God to those who have no interest in them.

Mat 7:6 (ESV) "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

This is the Lord Himself commanding the apostles not to discuss spiritual matters to those who don't show interest in them. They will just end up attacking you.

The book of Proverbs put it this way:

Pro 23:9 (ESV) Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.

However, the Lord provided a way for those who are not Israelites to take part in the passover meal: you have to be circumcised. This means you have to have a new heart.

Exo 12:48 (CEV) If anyone who isn't an Israelite wants to celebrate Passover with you, every man and boy in that family must first be circumcised. Then they may join in the meal, just like native Israelites. No uncircumcised man or boy may eat the Passover meal!

This scripture is telling us that the Lord will provide a way for all people to get saved.

1Jn 2:1 (KJV) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1Jn 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, **and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

Propitiation is a big word. But what it means is making amends; making a change in how we think and how we live. What the apostle John wrote above

means that Christ will live His life in us in order to reconcile us to the Father. He will make amends not for the elect's sins only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

That includes the sins of Pharaoh and all the Egyptians whom God used to show His power.

Exo 13:17 (ESV) When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."

Exo 13:18 But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

The Lord wants to humble Israel by the trials they would go through in the wilderness (in the desert), so He did not lead them through the land of the Philistines. The Lord knew how Israel would react if they go up against mighty nations right away – they will turn back and go back to Egypt. In this part of the story, the Lord wants to show us that salvation is gained through a long journey, not through a short prayer or by simply saying that you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Exo 13:19 (ESV) **Moses took the bones of Joseph with him**, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here."

This verse is quoting Israel's promise to Joseph before He died.

Gen 50:24 (ESV) And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Gen 50:25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

Why is this morbid detail included in the story of Moses? Surely, it was put there for a reason. The reason is to show us that Moses' story is just a continuation of Joseph's story. It is a story of God putting His people through trials and challenges. Remember all the hardships Joseph went through?

Hated by his brothers.

Sold to Egypt and became a slave.

Put in prison because of a false accusation of rape.

Through all these hardships, Joseph did not lose hope. God rewarded him for his faith and he became the Pharaoh's second-in-command. Moses is simply acknowledging God's fulfillment of his promise to Joseph and to Israel.

Exo 13:20 (CEV) The people of Israel left Succoth and camped at Etham at the border of Egypt near the desert.

Exo 13:21 – 22 During the day the LORD went ahead of his people in **a thick cloud**, and during the night he went ahead of them **in a flaming fire**. That way the LORD could lead them at all times, whether day or night.

The Lord led Israel using a thick cloud during the day and a flaming fire during the night. The Lord guides us through His words and through His people. These are the two things that this cloud and flaming fire symbolize.

Here is a verse where we can see that cloud is a symbol of His people:

Heb 12:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by **so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Here is a verse where we can see that fire is a symbol of His words:

Jer 5:14 (ESV) Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: "Because you have spoken this word, behold, **I am making my words in your mouth a fire**, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them.

It turns out that the Lord is not done destroying the Pharaoh. This shows us that God is intent on completely destroying our old man.

Exo 14:1 (CEV) At Etham the LORD said to Moses:

Exo 14:2 Tell the people of Israel to turn back and camp across from Pi-Hahiroth near Baal-Zephon, between Migdol and the Red Sea.

Exo 14:3 The king will think they were afraid to cross the desert and that they are wandering around, trying to find another way to leave the country.

Exo 14:4 I will make the king stubborn again, and he will try to catch you. Then I will destroy him and his army. People everywhere will praise me for my victory, and the Egyptians will know that I really am the LORD. The Israelites obeyed the LORD and camped where he told them.

Exo 14:5 When the king of Egypt heard that the Israelites had finally left, **he and his officials changed their minds and said**, "Look what we have done! We let them get away, and they will no longer be our slaves."

What in the world? How could these people quickly forget all the plagues that they suffered through? How could they quickly change their minds after the Lord killed their firstborn sons? Of course it takes nothing short of a miracle from God for this to happen.

Exo 14:6 (CEV) The king got his war chariot and army ready.

Exo 14:7 He commanded his officers in charge of his six hundred best chariots and all his other chariots to start after the Israelites.

Exo 14:8 (ESV) **And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt**, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly.

Exo 14:9 The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

Of course, the Egyptians would catch up to the Israelites. They were riding chariots pulled by horses while the people of Israel were walking.

Exo 14:10 (ESV) When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, **and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.**

Exo 14:11 They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"

Exo 14:12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

Here we see the Egyptians are not the only ones who forgot God's display of power through the plagues. The Israelites quickly turned against Moses when they saw the Egyptians on their chariots. This shows our lack of faith during the start of our walk with the Lord.

Exo 14:13 (CEV) But Moses answered, "Don't be afraid! Be brave, and you will see the LORD save you today. These Egyptians will never bother you again.

Exo 14:14 The LORD will fight for you, and you won't have to do a thing."

Moses is being a good leader here, just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the men chosen by God to lead His people. He encouraged the people of Israel when he saw that their faith is waning.

Exo 14:15 (CEV) The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you keep calling out to me for help? Tell the Israelites to move forward.

Exo 14:16 Then hold your walking stick over the sea. The water will open up and make a road where they can walk through on dry ground.

Exo 14:17 I will make the Egyptians so stubborn that they will go after you. Then I will be praised because of what happens to the king and his chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:18 The Egyptians will know for sure that I am the LORD."

Exo 14:19 All this time God's angel had gone ahead of Israel's army, but now he moved behind them. A large cloud had also gone ahead of them,

Exo 14:20 but now it moved between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud gave light to the Israelites, but made it dark for the Egyptians, and during the night they could not come any closer.

"The cloud gave light to the Israelites, but made it dark for the Egyptians". This tells us that only the people of God can understand His words and the rest of humanity are blinded at this time. How does He do it? He speaks to them in parables, but He gives wisdom to the elect to understand those parables.

Exo 14:21 (CEV) Moses stretched his arm over the sea, and the LORD sent a strong east wind that blew all night until there was dry land where the water had been. The sea opened up,

Exo 14:22 and the Israelites walked through on dry land with a wall of water on each side.

Exo 14:23 The Egyptian chariots and cavalry went after them.

Exo 14:24 But before daylight the LORD looked down at the Egyptian army from the fiery cloud and made them panic.

Exo 14:25 Their chariot wheels got stuck, and it was hard for them to move. So the Egyptians said to one another, "Let's leave these people alone! The LORD is on their side and is fighting against us."

Exo 14:26 The LORD told Moses, "Stretch your arm toward the sea--the water will cover the Egyptians and their cavalry and chariots."

Exo 14:27 Moses stretched out his arm, and at daybreak the water rushed toward the Egyptians. They tried to run away, but the LORD drowned them in the sea.

Exo 14:28 The water came and covered the chariots, the cavalry, and the whole Egyptian army that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them was left alive.

Exo 14:29 But the sea had made a wall of water on each side of the Israelites; so they walked through on dry land.

Exo 14:30 On that day, when the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the shore, they knew that the LORD had saved them.

Exo 14:31 Because of the mighty power he had used against the Egyptians, the Israelites worshiped him and trusted him and his servant Moses.