

The Red Sea

Exodus 13:17 – 15:21

by Don Falkos

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God led the people of Israel out of Egypt, into the wilderness, toward the Red Sea, guiding them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. The people took with them many valuable gifts given to them by their Egyptian neighbors, and Moses took along Joseph's bones as had been promised centuries before.

When Pharaoh heard that the Israelites had gone to the Red Sea, and that they had camped in a vulnerable spot, he took his army and chased after them.

The people of Israel saw the Egyptians coming. They said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? We would have been better off if you'd left us as slaves in Egypt."

But Moses said, "Don't be afraid. The Lord is about to fight for you. You won't have to lift a finger."

The pillar of cloud moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians. Then the Lord told Moses what to do. He held his staff out over the water of the Red Sea; a path opened up with walls of water on either side; a strong wind blew until the path was completely dry; and the people of Israel crossed over to the other side of the Red Sea, walking on dry ground.

When the Egyptian army followed, the wheels of their chariots began to fall off, and the soldiers became disoriented. They realized, "God is fighting for the Israelites." They turned and fled.

But God said to Moses, "Hold your hand out over the water." And when he did, the waters of the Red Sea came crashing down and the entire Egyptian army was drowned. Some of their bodies washed up on shore as the Israelites worshiped the Lord.