

=THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL=

Lesson 3

The Crossing of the Red Sea

AIM: to teach my pupils the miraculous event of God's care over His people, Israel.

INTRODUCTION: The Red Sea was known as "the sea," "The Sea of Sedge," "The Sea of Reeds," or "the Sea of Weeds." It was not named the Red Sea because of the color of its water. There are several explanations as to the name of the Red Sea:

1. The Greeks derived the name from a fabulous king who reigned in the adjacent country. This king probably corresponds to Edom, who represents the red-skinned people, including the Edomites.
2. The land around the sea is red. Under the evening sun the eastern bank would glow with a ruddy radiance. The ancient Red Sea was 1,490 miles long, and its greatest width was probably about 205 miles. The western most part of the Red Sea, known as the Gulf of Suez, which is the place the Israelites crossed, is now about 100 miles in length with an average width of about 20 miles. Its smallest point is 10 miles in width. The average depth of the Red Sea is 2,500 to 3,500 feet and actually goes as deep as 7,200 feet.

Let us notice some blessed truths about this wonderful lesson as told in Exodus 14.

- I. WATER ALWAYS FOLLOWS DELIVERANCE. In the Bible, water is always the second thing. After a person is saved, baptism comes. At Pentecost after the three thousand were saved, they were baptized. The second piece of furniture in the tabernacle is the laver. In the second chapter of John we have the miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine. The second day of creation was the division of the waters in Genesis 1. Hence, it is fitting that the second thing that happened to the Israelites was the crossing of the Red Sea. First, deliverance; then, water. (Teacher, stress here the need of baptism immediately upon conversion.)
- II. PHAROAH'S ARMIES FOLLOWED. See Exodus 14:5-9. When a person is saved, that does not mean the Devil is through with him. To be sure, he is delivered, but the Devil will continue to follow. The sins you committed before you were saved will still hound you. The Devil will tempt you with every one of them. Do not forget the Devil just because you are saved. He is right behind you trying to chase you and destroy your testimony all the way.
- III. THE ONLY ANSWER FOR THE ISRAELITES WAS TO GO FORWARD. The Red Sea was in front; the Egyptians were at the rear, but the reason they were to go forward was that they were led by the pillar of cloud. God was in front of them, and God would open the way.
- IV. THERE WERE TWO GROUPS OF ISRAELITES. In Exodus 14:10 one group cried unto the Lord. The other group is found in verse 11; they started complaining to Moses. Many historians and Bible students believe that these were two different groups of people. There are always these two groups represented in any time of testing.
- V. PHAROAH BROUGHT HIS ENTIRE ARMY. Note in Exodus 14:7 the phrase, "six hundred chosen chariots." These were especially chosen chariots. According to the most authentic accounts we have of war chariots, they were usually drawn by four horses and carried three people. One was the charioteer whose business it was to guide the horses, but he never fought. The second was to defend the charioteer, and the third was the combatant or warrior. Josephus says the army of Pharaoh consisted of 50,000 horses and 200,000 foot soldiers. What an army! Yet God was and is always able!
- VI. GOD GAVE TWO FORMS OF PROTECTION.
  1. The angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them. Notice Exodus 14:19. In the Bible when the angel is mentioned, usually it refers to one of several angels. However, often when the words, "the angel of God," are mentioned, it is the Lord Jesus Christ. No doubt this was another appearance of Jesus just as He appeared in the fiery furnace, the Garden of Eden, to Jacob as he wrestled at night, etc.
  2. A cloud was provided. Here was a cloud with two sides—one dark and the other luminous. The luminous side gave light to the whole camp of Israel during the night. The dark side turned toward the pursuing

Egyptians preventing them from receiving benefits from the light. The cloud prevented the children of Israel from seeing their enemy. They saw Jesus, but not the enemy. Dear friend, never look at the enemy or fear will come. Keep your eyes on Jesus and faith will follow!

- VII. GOD MARVELOUSLY DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE. Read Exodus 14:21, 22. A wall formed on the right and on the left. There have been many efforts for people to explain that the east wind drew back the water. The fact is, God marvelously parted these millions and millions of gallons of water, providing a narrow passageway for His people. The east wind, no doubt, was to dry off the bottom of the sea so God's people could go over on firm footing. God does not need natural help, though He often uses it, to bring about His miracles.
- VIII. WHEN DELIVERANCE CAME, JOY CAME IN THE CAMP. See Exodus 15:1. May those of us who have been delivered by His wonderful grace sing the Lord's song always!