

The Crossing of the Red Sea

A Retelling of Exodus 14, including portions of 13, 15, and 16

After leaving Egypt, the Lord led the children of Israel through the wilderness of the Red Sea. He went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

Now, Pharaoh heard that the children of Israel had left, and he changed his mind about letting them go. So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. The Egyptians chased the children of Israel, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his army.

When Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming. They were afraid and cried out to the Lord. And Moses said, "Do not be afraid.... The Lord will fight for you...."

Then the Lord told Moses how He would conquer the Egyptians and told Moses just what to do. And the pillar of cloud and fire came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. It protected the children of Israel all that night.

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.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

And the Egyptians chased them into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and men. Then the Lord made trouble for the Egyptians. He took off their chariot wheels. The Egyptians decided to run away because the Lord was helping the children of Israel.

Then the Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came after them into the sea.

So, the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

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.

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang a song to the Lord praising Him. And Miriam and the women took timbrels [musical instruments like tambourines], and they danced.