

Miraculous Rescue!

Exodus 13:17-22; 14; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 281-290

Have you ever been on a long journey? Did you know where you were going when you left? Did you have a plan in case something went wrong on the trip? God's people, the Israelites, went on such a journey a long time ago.

The evening breeze off the Red Sea was refreshing. Asher welcomed the chance to rest his aching legs. What a whirl the last few days had been—killing the lamb, sprinkling its blood on the doorpost, then roasting it and eating it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It was the last meal he'd eaten in the only home he'd ever known.

He remembered the rest of that night. The Lord sweeping through the land of Egypt, killing the firstborn in every Egyptian home. Pharaoh had been furious. He had ordered the Israelites out of the country immediately. The confusion of packing and leaving in the middle of the night, not knowing where they were going. The realization that God Himself was leading them. The pillar of fire at night that turned into a pillar of cloud as the sun rose and day dawned.

Now the cloud had stopped by the Red Sea, and the Israelites were enjoying the rest. Asher wondered what might happen next.

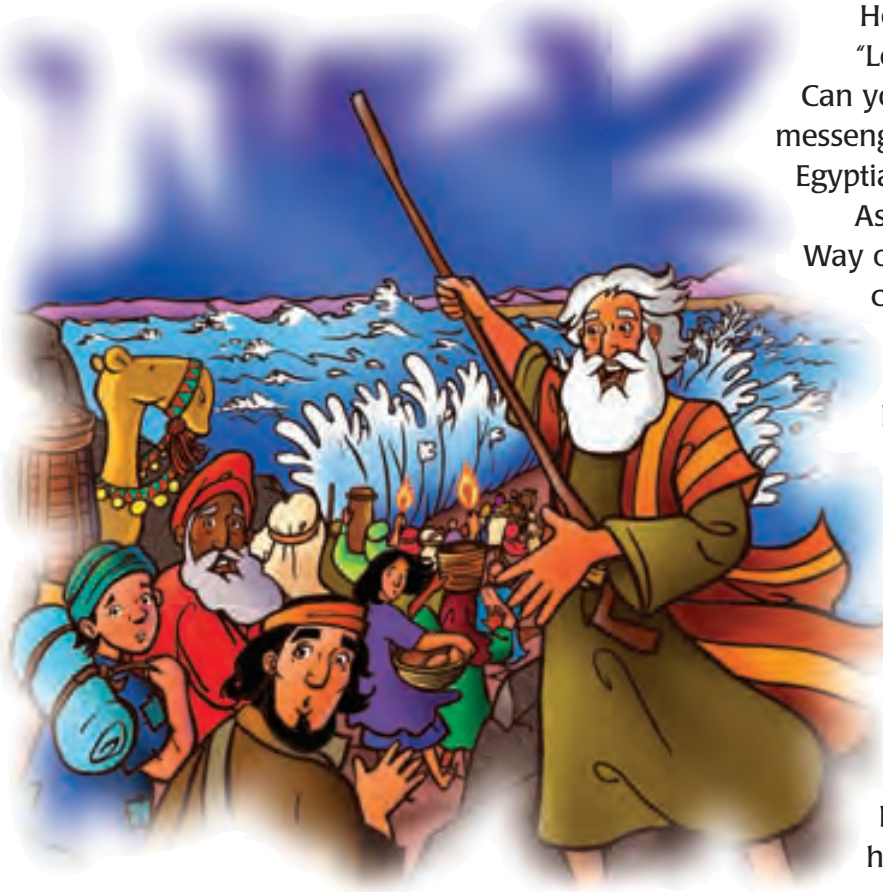
He didn't have to wait long.

"Look! Out there on the horizon! Can you see it? Can you hear it?" A messenger ran through camp. "The Egyptians are coming!"

Asher and others jumped to their feet. Way out on the edge of the desert they could see a cloud of dust. They could hear the roar of a mighty army. Asher's heart jumped into his throat. Pharaoh must have changed his mind. The army was coming to take them back to Egypt!

Panic swept through the crowd. "Where's Moses?" the people wailed. "Why did he bring us out here to die? Was it because there were no graves in Egypt? It would have been better for us to be slaves in Egypt than to die out here in the desert."

"Do not be afraid," Moses said firmly.



The Message

God has a plan to take care of me.

Memory Verse

“Stand firm and
you will see the
deliverance the Lord
will bring you today”

(Exodus 14:13, NIV).

The sound of his voice quieted the crowd. “Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Asher watched as the cloud that had been resting by the Red Sea moved. It passed over the Israelite people and out into the desert. Finally, it rested between the Israelites and the Egyptians.

Moses walked to the edge of the Red Sea and held his staff out over the water. Gently at first, and then more strongly, Asher felt a wind blowing toward the water. With astonishment he watched the wind blow the water aside. It was leaving behind a dry path through the sea!

“Come,” ordered Moses. “The Lord is preparing a way of escape for you. He will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his horsemen.”

Joyfully the people rushed forward. The wind continued to blow a dry path as thousands of Israelites stepped into the dry sea bed. Asher hurried to follow the others across the dry sea floor. A wall of water stood on either side of him. The pillar of fire illuminated the way.

All night the huge crowd of Israelites hurried through the sea. As the last of the crowd reached the far side, they could hear the Egyptian army pursuing. Asher looked back to see the army rushing toward them. But something amazing was happening. Wheels were coming off their chariots! There was confusion, and then it looked as if they were trying to turn around and go



back to Egypt!

Just then Moses stepped up to the bank of the sea. As dawn broke he once again stretched his hand across the sea. The waters flowed back together! In an instant the sounds of the Egyptian army were quieted. The horses, the soldiers, the chariots—all were gone under the waves.

The Israelite community just stared, too stunned to say a word. And then the roar erupted. “Sing to the Lord!” the people shouted. “The Lord is my strength and my song!” Asher joined them, shouting with all his might. God had saved them!

S A B B A T H

READ With your family, find a quiet place where you can see the sky clearly. Lie down while you look at the sky. Do you see clouds? Try to imagine that you are looking at the pillar of cloud that cared for the Israelites. Then read your Bible lesson story together.

DO Read Exodus 14:13. Teach the verse to your family.

SING Sing "Anywhere With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 45).

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Exodus 13:17-22.

DO Find a map of the Israelites' journey in a Bible. Ask your family to help you trace the journey. Copy or trace the map. Save it for tomorrow.

DO Review your memory verse.

M O N D A Y

READ Read Exodus 14:1-10 together during worship.

DO On the map made yesterday, color the mountains, desert, and the Red Sea. Add names of the important cities and the route the Israelites traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land.

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.

SING Sing "All Through the Day" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 49). Thank God for leading you every day.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read Exodus 14:11-22.

DO God had a plan to save Israel. Find one step in Exodus 13:16. Another step is found in Exodus 13:17. Now read Exodus 14:21, 22 to find another. Draw some steps on paper. On each write a step in God's plan. Remember, God also has a plan to take care of you.

DO On the map used Monday trace the Israelites' travels. Say your memory verse as you do so.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Exodus 14:23-31 together in family worship today.

DO Make a collage or drawing of what it was like to cross the Red Sea. Cut out pictures of people, fish, etc., and paste them on paper against a background of water. Add a cotton "pillar of cloud" above the sea.

DO Look in a book or encyclopedia about sea life. Learn something new.

TELL Say your memory verse. Tell what it means in your own words.



Pharaoh chased the Israelites with 600 special palace chariots and all the chariots of Egypt.

T H U R S D A Y

READ During family worship, say your memory verse. Some Bibles read "Stand still." Read Psalm 46:10. What do you think this verse means? Tell about a time when it was hard for you to "stand still."

PRAY Pray with your family that you will "stand still," that you will have confidence that God will take care of you.

SING Sing together "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 42).

F R I D A Y

TELL For worship today, tell your lesson story to your family. Use your map, step diagram, and Red Sea picture.

READ Read Psalm 106:7-12 together. Then read Psalm 107:6 and 8. Count how many times the words of verses 6 and 8 are repeated throughout Psalm 107. When you pray, praise Jesus for His goodness during the past week. Mention at least one specific thing for which you are thankful.

DO Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.

**Miraculous
Rescue!**

PUZZLE

Directions: To find key words from this lesson, cross out every other letter. Begin with the second letter of each word.

Pzibloluakr oeft fyjrke _____

wgixnwd _____

wbaplilws ogf whaxtmehr _____

Mboisneks' srtvaofbf _____

cylgaprxigoqtds _____