

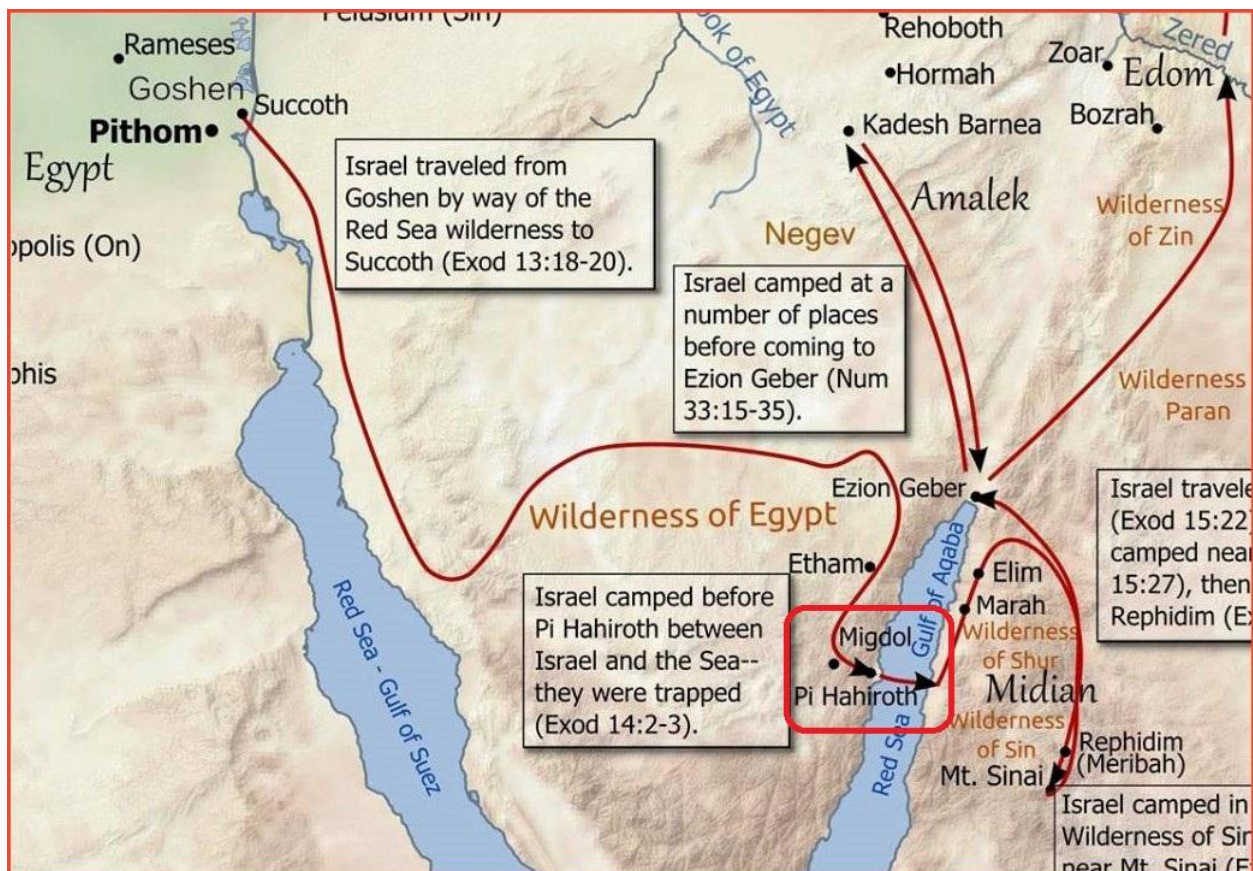
## Exodus 14

Verses 1- 4

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. <sup>3</sup>For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ <sup>4</sup>Thus I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.

<sup>2</sup> “Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea.

See map 1405



**<sup>3</sup> For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’**

By changing directions, God made it look like Israel was lost and confused

**<sup>4</sup> Thus I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.**

God was about to rescue Israel (a nation of slaves) from Egypt, the preeminent World Power at the time. God had Judged Egypt for their false gods and for enslaving the Jews but He also wanted to show the Egyptians that He was pre-eminent.

Verses 5 - 9

**<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” <sup>6</sup> So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; <sup>7</sup> and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup> The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly. <sup>9</sup> Then the Egyptians chased after them *with* all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.**

**<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”**

The extent of their loss must have hit them like a ton of bricks (pun intended). ☺

**<sup>6</sup> So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; <sup>7</sup> and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.**

The king wasn’t taking any chances given their recent failures.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly.**

Despite all the pain and loss they had endured from the plagues, they decided once again to test the God of Israel. However, since the Lord had hardened the heart of the king the word “decided” should probably be replaced with the words “were forced”.

<sup>9</sup> **Then the Egyptians chased after them *with* all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.**

Israel had reached Nuweiba beach thru a dried river bed in the mountains.

See pic 1410          Path to the beach



Since Israel was on the beach they were protected on all sides except for the path provided by the river bed thru the mountains. So when the cloud of fire moved to the west and blocked the path, the Egyptian Army could only sit and wait until it moved.

The next picture is a close up of the path and the mountains on both sides.

See pic 1415





Verses 10-14

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘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.” <sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. <sup>14</sup> The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”

**<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord.**

The events of the last year, the 10 plagues, should have given them some trust in God and Moses, but they seem to have little faith at this point. However, they did the right thing by crying out to the Lord.

**<sup>11</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?”**

The slaves react like they have been treated unfairly. No one wants to see a mighty army headed their way, but how many miracles does it require before they put some faith in the Lord.

See Luke 10:11-13

**<sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that occurred in you had occurred in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades!”**

**<sup>12</sup> Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘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**

They had appealed to God concerning their harsh treatment but when God began to answer those prayers thru His servant Moses, they told him never mind, we’re good.

Yes, slavery is better than death but that is not the only two options being given here. They were being given the opportunity to be free. Freedom to do the following:

1. Religious freedom.
2. Self-Governance. Government by the people and for the people.
3. Prosperity. Choose what kind of work you do and own your own land.
4. Contribute to society as a whole.

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, “**Do not fear!** Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. <sup>14</sup> **The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.**”

The Jews would not have to fight the Egyptians. They would stand by and watch as the Lord drowned the Egyptian army.

Verses 15 - 18

<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup> As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. <sup>17</sup> As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen.”

**Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me?”**

Apparently God had told Moses what he should do but he was hesitating because of the complaints of the people. God told Moses to ignore the complaints of the people and do what He had told him to do.

<sup>16</sup> **As for you,** lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. <sup>17</sup> **As for Me,** behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.

God instructed Moses to do his job and God would do his part.

All that Moses had to do was lift His staff so the sea would be divided and then lead the people across on dry land.

God did His part by dividing the Red Sea (over 2,000 feet deep) and then hardened the heart of the Egyptian army so they would pursue Israel.

Verses 19 - 20

**<sup>19</sup> The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup> So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.**

**<sup>19</sup> The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.**

The Angel of God is most likely the pre-incarnated Christ. When Christ went behind them the cloud moved with him. See verse 9 to see how this blocked the Egyptians from getting near Israel.

**<sup>20</sup> So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.**

The Egyptians to the west were left in darkness and unable to attack the slaves but the Israelites were given light so they were able to cross the Red Sea.

Verses 21 - 25

**<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea *back* by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>23</sup> Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. <sup>24</sup> At the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians."**



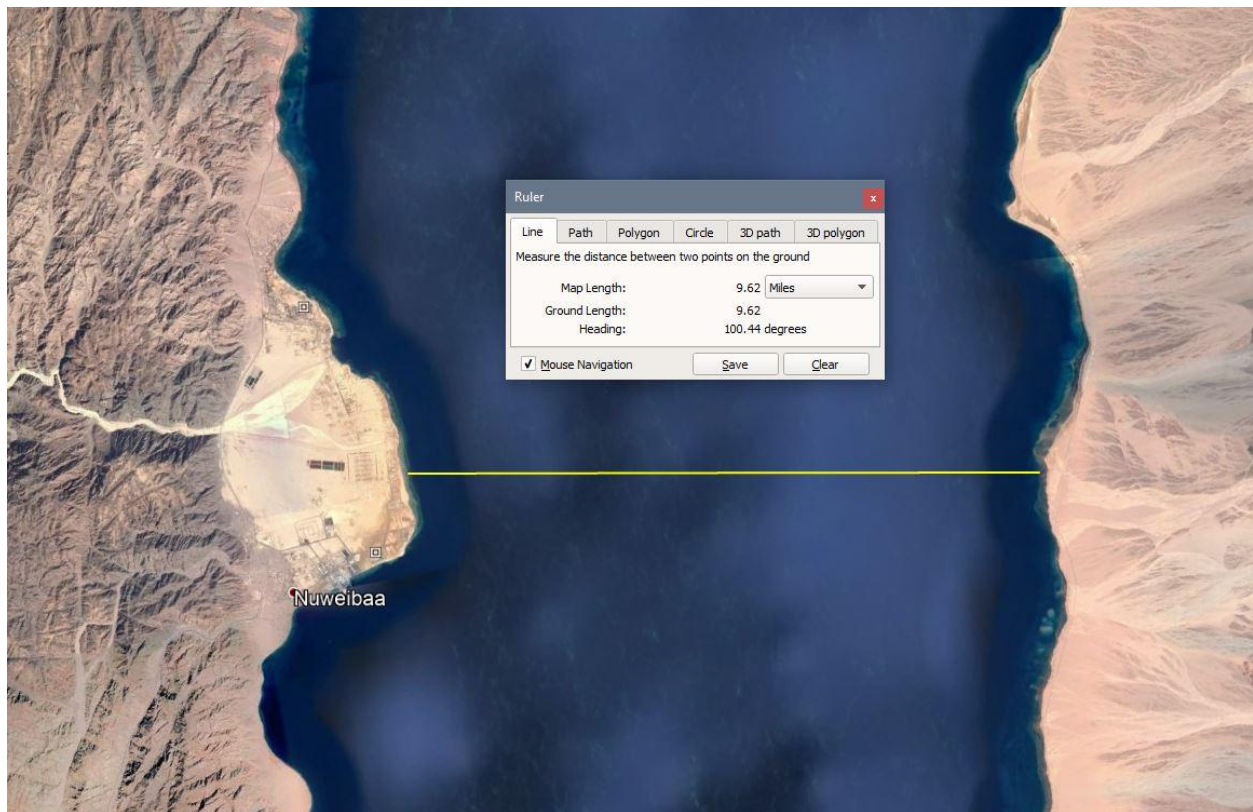
<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea ***back by a strong east wind*** all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

The dividing of the sea was a miracle, a supernatural event but God used a naturalistic means, the wind, to dry the land. God often uses both elements to accomplish His will.

<sup>22</sup> The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea ***on the dry land***, and the waters were ***like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left***.

The scope of this miracle is hard to comprehend. The Red Sea at this spot is 10 miles wide and up to 2400 feet deep.

See pics 1420      **10 miles wide**



Thanks to Google Earth Pro we can measure distance and water depth and then take a picture of the results. We live at a great time in history.

See pic 1425      **Water depth**





Can we comprehend a wall of water 2400 feet deep and 10 miles long? This is why God says he will be known as “The Lord” from this miracle.

Some skeptics have tried to say this was the Reed Sea, implying it was an area of shallow water but this body of water is called a "sea" 17 times in the 31 verses of this chapter.

In addition, if they were right about the shallow water, then they have to explain another miracle. How did God drown the Egyptian army in shallow water? Men often think they are clever in denying God’s Word but they only show their ignorance of His word.

**<sup>23</sup> Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea.**

These men had seen what had happened during the plagues, how Israel was protected and only the Egyptians suffered disaster. But before we think of them as being mentally challenged we should remember that God had hardened their hearts.

**<sup>25</sup> He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.”**

The KJV says “And took off their chariot wheels”. The NIV has it translated “He jammed the wheels of their chariots”. Is there really that much leeway when translating scripture? That is meant to be a rhetorical question. ☺

Verses 26 - 31

**<sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. <sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh’s entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.**

**<sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.**

A 2,400 foot wall of water came crushing down on the mighty Egyptian army and it was destroyed in an instant. This is also why not even one of them survived.

**<sup>31</sup> When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.**

The events of this chapter declare that the nation of Israel did not come about by chance or the will of the people. It was created by a sovereign act of God.

This great miracle helped the people of Israel to believe in the Lord and in Moses his servant, but time can be a friend or an enemy of faith. In just a few days the people will be complaining about their situation and wondering if God really cares for them. Faith in God can come thru various means but it seems to be a slow process that comes in bits and pieces over many years.