

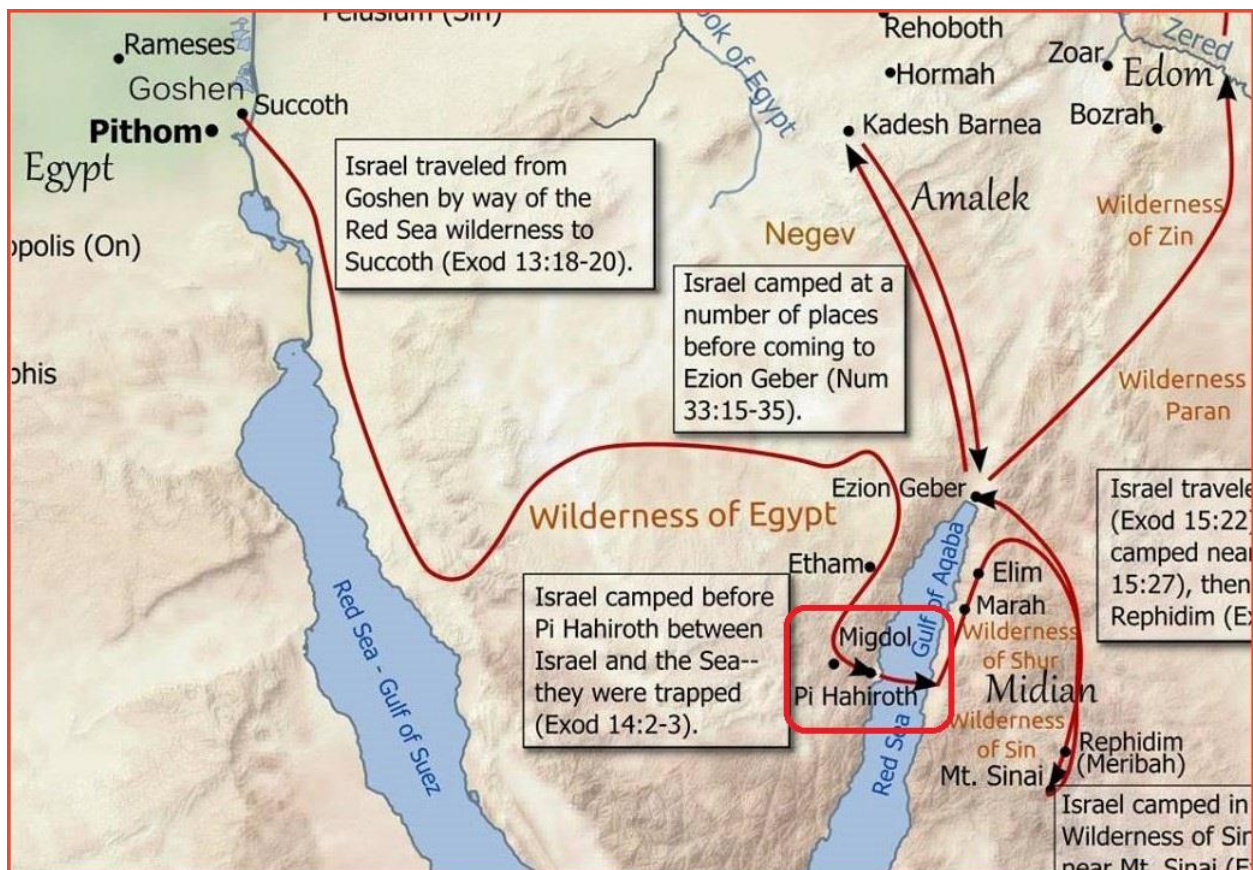
Exodus 14

Verses 1-4

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“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. ³For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ ⁴Thus 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.

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



³ 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

I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army

God was about to rescue Israel from Egypt, the preeminent World Power at the time

Verses 5-9

⁵ 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?” ⁶ So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; ⁷ and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us

The extent of their loss finally hit them like a ton of bricks (pun intended) 😊

After all the pain and loss they had endured by the plagues, they decided once again to test the God of Israel

So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him

He took six hundred select chariots and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them

Retrieving 2.5 million people with 600,000 men would be a big task

So to be safe, the king took all of the chariots. It would be interesting to know how many in total he possessed.

And they overtook them camping by the sea

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

See pic 1410 Path to the beach



See pic 1415 close up of the path



Since Israel was on the beach they were protected on three sides

The Red Sea to the east, and mountains to the North and South

So when the cloud of fire moved to the west, the Egyptian Army could only sit and wait until it moved

The beach was plenty big enough to hold 2.5 million people and their flocks

It was 3 miles wide and 4.5 miles long

See Pics 1420 and 1425

3 miles wide



4.5 miles long



Verses 10-14

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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? ¹² 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.” ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”

The Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened

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

Why have you dealt with us in this way?

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

Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'?

They had appealed to God concerning their harsh treatment but when God began to answer those prayers they told Him.....Never mind, we're good.

For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness

Yes, slavery is better than death

But is that the only two options being given here?

How about the opportunity to be free?

To choose what kind of work you do, to make a better life for yourself, to own your own land, to leave an inheritance to your children.

But Moses said to the people

Do not fear

Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord

The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.

Verses 15-18

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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

The answer from God was.....**Get to it**

As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them

God will again temporarily harden the hearts of the Egyptians

However, this temporary hardening will result in their death

Does this make anyone feel sorry for the Egyptian Army?

We should remember that the army was there to take the slaves back to the brick yards

God had tolerated the slavery of his people for 160 years

But a time comes when God’s judgment and wrath is poured out on sin

Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord

At this point in time, the Egyptian people feared God because of the plagues but that is not the same as recognizing God as The Lord

The news of what will soon happen at the Red Sea will have a huge impact on Egypt and other nations concerning God being THE LORD

Verses 19-20

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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 angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them

The Angel of God is most likely the pre-incarnated Christ

When the Angel moved the cloud moved with him

There was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night

The Egyptians 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

²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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 Lord swept the sea *back* by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land

The dividing of the sea was a miracle, a supernatural event

But God used a naturalistic means, the wind, to dry the land

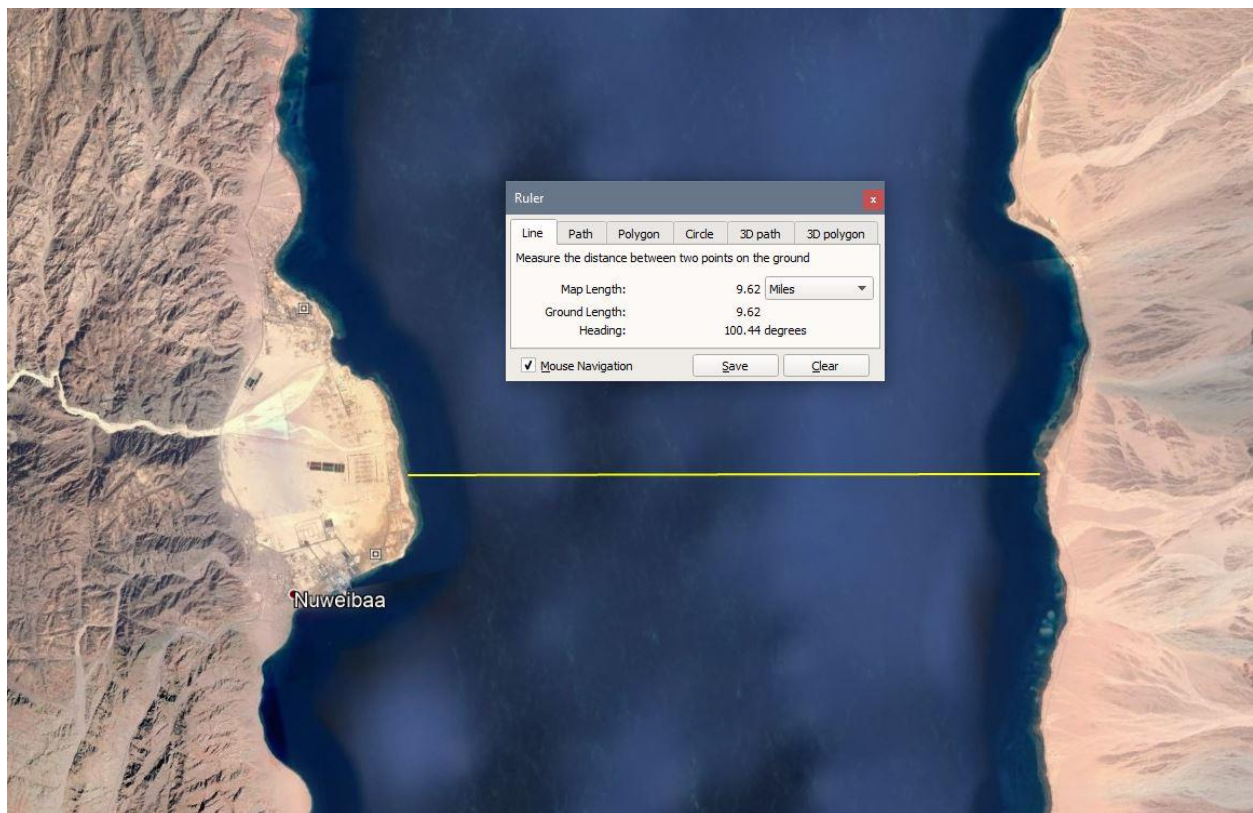
God often uses both elements to accomplish his will

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 is 10 miles wide and up to 2400 feet deep

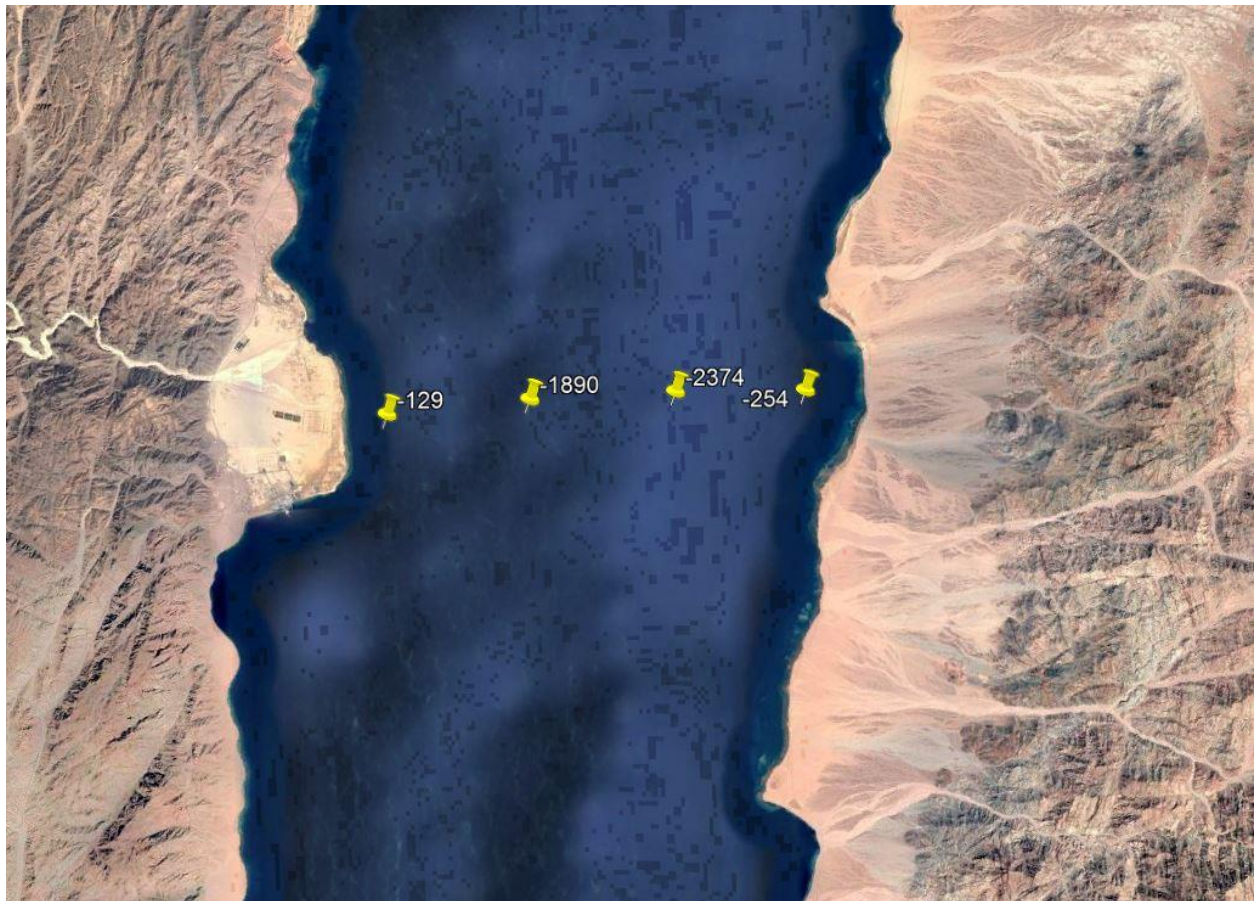
See pics 1430 **10 miles wide**



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 1435

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

This body of water is called a "sea" 17 times in the 31 verses of this chapter

If they were right about the shallow water, then they have to explain another miracle.

How did God drown the entire Egyptian army in shallow water?

Men often think they are clever in denying God’s Word but they are not

²³ 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.

Despite all of that, they decide to pursue the slaves.

But before we think of them as being mentally challenged, we should remember that God had hardened their hearts

²⁵ 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."

KJV says....And took off their chariot wheels

NIV is 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

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ 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.

And the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it;

A 2,400 foot wall of water came crushing down on them.

This is why not even one of them survived

The mightiest military machine on earth was defeated and destroyed

During the 40 years in the wilderness, Egypt offered no opposition to Israel.

When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians,

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.

The people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

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 is a slow process