

Through the Midst of the Sea Exodus 14:19-31

Verses 10-18 tell us that the Israelites were sure they were going to die in just minutes or hours. If not die, then back to worse slavery than they had ever known. They blasted Moses for leading them to this dead end. But Moses assured them, "The LORD will fight for you..." Then God said, in effect, "get the people moving, and while you do that I will bring glory to Myself by wiping out those who dare oppose me and my people. And so we pick up the narrative at verse 19, which we just read.

- I. **Ahead and Behind** The Angel and Cloud behind Them 19-20
 - A. God halted the Egyptian advance by putting them in the dark.
 - B. But He encouraged the Israelites quickly to move on to safety.
 - C. Who was the Angel of God?
 - D. The time of judgment is a time of separation.
 - E. The Lord goes ahead and behind us to declare the kind of journey we are on (pressing on).

- II. **On the Right and on the Left** The Parting of the Waters 21-22, 29
 - A. God usually uses both first and second causes (rather than straight-out miracles).
 - B. Nature and even the designs of men are made to assist, not hinder His purposes.
 - C. Probably we are north of Suez with only minor tide flow and watching the drying east wind.
 - D. The opposing walls of water picture God's perfect way of escape. 1 Cor. 10:13
 - E. Again note, the way of escape exists so that we may continue the journey.

- III. **The Chasers Become the Chased** Crossing and Pursuit 23-25
 - A. With the enthusiasm of the hunter and his hounds, Pharaoh unleashed his chariots.
 - B. The Lord's way of escape will only accommodate His people; will be the death of others.
 - C. At dawn the Lord began to chase the Egyptians around the seabed.
 - D. The Egyptians could not catch Israel, but God caught the Egyptians easily and disastrously.
 - E. You don't to be chased by God unless His goal is to save you.

- IV. **In But Not Out** The Destruction of the Egyptian Army 26-28
 - A. The Israelites went into the valley of the sea and came out survivors through grace.
 - B. The fearsome Egyptian military operated there without grace and perished to the last man.
 - C. It is as likely as not that Pharaoh also was killed.
 - D. Pharaoh saw before him the wide road, the one that leads to destruction.
 - E. The frightened Israelites took the narrow road that leads to life. Mt 7:13,14

- V. **Fear and Faith** The Effect on the Israelites 30-31
 - A. Last time, the Israelites were terrified by the charging Egyptians.
 - B. This time, the Egyptians are terrified by the morass and imminent drowning.
 - C. The Israelites are aghast at the bodies of their pursuers. (Did they spot Pharaoh?)
 - D. They became convinced (for the moment) of the unmatched power of YHWH.
 - E. They "believed" in the Lord and in His servant Moses.