

## The Red Sea Part 2

*Preaching from the past*

By Ron Gearis

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**Safe Harbor Baptist Church**

270 Dunns Mountain Church Rd.

Salisbury, NC 28146

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Psalm 77 says that the sea saw God. It saw God. So we started yesterday with the God of creation. Now we searched through to see do we believe, do we believe that creation is responsive to God? Do we believe that? Do we think the rocks could cry out? Do we still believe that? I'm still asking those questions because I'm afraid that among us Baptist folk and I don't mean about you and me, but I'm afraid among Baptist ranks such belief, such literal – are you looking at me straight in the God-given eyeball? I'm a-looking at you. I get a little sick of this fancy language, that's a simile and that's this and that's that. Buzzard puke. I was reading the Bible when I couldn't even pronounce them words, still can't pronounce them, don't know what they are and still believe the book and I don't need none of you to tell me that that's just figurative and that's just junk. You'd better watch that stuff, Jack, that ain't the stuff that feeds God's people. Are you looking at me? We need a big God in the day and age we live in. I don't need figurative stuff. It's alright when Miss Judy puts the dog on and puts little old sandwiches out there and little old olives, but I don't want that junk every day. Just put mashed taters and gravy and stuff like that out and I'll make it and I don't need none of your figurative language and I don't need none of your fancy trash, I believe the book, amen? I just believe the book and I take it like it is. It's done me well all these years and I plan to just keep it smack up, amen?

Now the opening of the Red Sea is like that. Everybody that crossed, not just Moses, Hebrews 11 is plain, everybody that crossed crossed by faith. Then we saw yesterday that in spite of the latest maps, even those that are on computers now which Brother McBride and I were talking about, even those are unable to pinpoint these cities that are named in Exodus 13, 14, and 15. A true map will have a question mark saying, "We don't know for sure where those towns are." Well, no one can say that God took Israel across the Red Sea at this point. The Bible said plainly that God hid his footsteps. Where they crossed, God hid it intentionally. God didn't want man to be able to say, "Right here is where they crossed." God didn't want that, the reason being is because it took faith to cross and it's going to take faith for you to believe that God did do it, took a million people out of 430 years of slavery and took them across the Red Sea on dry ground.

And you're allowed to decide how big your God is. Your God ain't very big, then take him up north, let them cross by the Bitter Lakes in what's called the Reed Sea, if that's the size God you have. You want to drop down a little bit, you can take them across a little

bit north there at the Gulf of Suez. It's not very deep there. But if you really believe God and if you believe the language of the Bible and if you compare Scripture with Scripture, the Bible never in all of its accounts of the crossing of the Red Sea never knows anything except it had to do with the depth, except it had to do with great waters, except it had to do with the midst, it's always in the middle, it's always where it's the deepest. God said, "I took them through where was the least believable."

Sometimes God in your Bible chooses to give you the size. There's the size of the ark. He didn't say Noah put together a boat. He didn't say Moses put together a tabernacle. He didn't say Solomon just threw up any old temple, I'll take it. No sir, all of those things that was given an exact dimension. Everything was laid out. The tabernacle, the temple was according to the one in heaven. Everything was laid out. But there are some things in the Bible where God lets you choose for yourself. I think of one and I've not preached it in a long time but the corners belong to God. When they came into the land of Canaan, God said, "It's your land, your field, your harvest, but I am the Lord thy God, stay out of the corners." Stay out of the corners. He never says, he never takes it back, he ain't an Indian giver, he said, "It's your land, it's your harvest, it's your field, but you stay out of the corners because I am the Lord thy God." Well, you can search your Bible through, when he said every man is to leave the corner, out of the corner he fed the widows, the orphans, and the strangers, and every man was allowed to make up his own mind and decide with his own family how deep the corner was going to be. If he could cut the corners like this, he could cut the corner like this, cut the four corners like that, and leave the corners deep, he obeyed God. He could come in here and cut the corner right here, he obeyed God. He could cut the corner right in here and he would have obeyed God. He could cut the corner right here leaving just a stalk and he had obeyed God. So then God said, "You decide how big a blessing you want." I'll tell you one person, Boaz came out from the city, the reapers were in his field, they greeted him, he greeted them. The reason nobody was working yet was he had to tell them, he owned the field, he had to tell them how big and what he was going to believe God for this year. So they were waiting. Thank God he made the corners big enough, his wife was in one of them. Why, she may have cut the corner and left, amen?

There are things in the Bible where God allows you to just go ahead and decide for yourself. Well, the Red Sea is like that. At one point it's 190 miles wide, roughly the size of California. If you take a conservative estimate, the Bible gives you the figure of 600,000 men plus the children, and then you add the wives, you took the conservative figure and said they brought one million out, but if you really believe God and said the figure had to be two million, then the 190 miles fits almost to the t. It fits almost to the t. So then God must have took them and I believe, I believe in a great God. I've had no problem with that. I've got that settled and so I believe that he took them through the deepest part. Now nobody can contradict you, nobody can laugh at you, no Bible scholar, no college professor, no high school curriculum, nobody because nobody can pinpoint where it is. It's up to you to believe of how great the Lord is.

We ended, if you've not known this, in Habakkuk, if you want to look there in Habakkuk. Here's where we closed yesterday and I just wanted to show it to you. We looked in

Habakkuk and saw that when the waters stood up and Israel went through, the Bible said in Habakkuk 3:10, "The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high." The waters stood up on either side and the Bible describes it as an act of surrender. He lifted up his hands on high. In every country this means, "I surrender." If you get robbed in Hong Kong, if you just raise your hand, you don't have to talk Hong Kongie, just raise your hand. If you're in Thieves' Alley in Japan where sailors go and somebody sticks it, just put up your hands, it means the same thing. If you're in Hurricane, West Virginia, just put up your hand. It means, "I surrender."

And the waters raised their hands and uttered their voice. Now notice that, the deep uttered his voice. The language will not permit the voice, a human voice, it was not a human voice. It means to lo. It means to bleat. It means to crackle. It means to make a proclamation yet with a song. The waters while they stood while Israel crossed and they stood longer than most people suppose, as the waters stood, in fact, I believe if you'll take Exodus 13, 14 and 15 and study carefully, beginning the first night God came between the Israelite and the Jews. He was light to Israel, darkness to the Egyptians. That night and we'll bring this out and show you why tomorrow, but if Israel was here and the Red Sea here, God started over there. God started over there. It was an east wind and the wind blew towards the nation of Israel. Now again, you've got to have a great God. God is with them. God has these people in darkness. God is with these people and yet God is over there coming this way.

God did not stand here and go [blowing sound]. It was not that at all but it was an east wind and that meant that God was blowing from that bank over there on the east side on the Arabian Peninsula blowing this way toward them. Now tomorrow when we get into the war, there's going to be a war, this is a war. God knows how to fight battles and God is doing the right thing. It would not have and you'll see it tomorrow, it would not have been wise to start here and open like that but he started this one night, the language would seem to appear that all of this continued all of the next day and the next night. Then the people were going across and that was the night then that toward morning God looked down, saw the Egyptians and the Israelites. Again, if you have two million people and you cross at 190 mile marker, then everything is working out. The Egyptians would have been in the middle. The timing is right. The mileage is right. Everything is okay. Hallelujah, the Bible is right. Woo! It almost makes me believe he preserved the original. It just works.

Where am I? And so anyway, the waters were standing up and I wanted to close this on the creation. Look in your Bible in Exodus 11. Oh, how all creation obeyed God that night. Over on the other side, mountains are gonna have to be moved. That's what kills the Bible scholars, but there's no problems. Your Bible said the mountains skipped like little rams, the mountains were all lined up and one little mountain said, "How's this, Lord?" And God said, "We're gonna need a little more room. They're walking five abreast and there are two million of them." And mountains just skipped up and down and said, "Is this okay? Would you like me here? Want me over here, Lord?" They skipped up and

down like little lambs and got just exactly where God wanted them. All of creation is obeying God that night.

It's a terrible night. It's a night of great terror. Great terror. You dare not just... I watched on tv, I watched a thing by archaeologists, they were trying to see could the wind that naturally comes down off of those mountains on the east side on the Arabian Peninsula, could the wind that just naturally comes down out of those mountains and out across the Red Sea, is that enough to open it. Well, they worked at it. If the wind blew more than 100 mph on and on and on, it could do a little bit, it could disturb it, okay? But what the dummies don't understand, your Bible is so plain... Boy, I'm mixed up today. The Bible is so plain and I know I told you where to go but, boy, I just get all stirred up.

Look in Exodus 15:8. It ain't just wind coming down off the mountains but in Exodus 15:8 when we get the war tomorrow, "And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap." Boy, ain't it good just to be a Bible believer? And look at that, "the blast of thy nostrils," God snorted at the Red Sea. The sun went to sink. That's all it takes. That's all it takes. "We surrender. We surrender. Don't blow on us. You just snort and it made me move. The blast of thy nostrils." You think how great God is if he can just blast. Why, I do that all the time when Judy does dumb things and it don't even phase her. She goes right on. Boy, I wish I had more power, amen? God snorted and they were moving out.

Well, I'm trying to get back to Exodus 11. That's where I'm trying to go this morning. I want to get in this morning to the God of redemption. The sea saw the God of creation and it saw the God of redemption but I want you to notice in Exodus 11:7, "But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." Now you know how an old yard dog is, anything that goes by in the middle of the night, [barking sound]. You know. Do you know that night when God called his people and they started out walking five abreast, do you know even the dogs put their head down between their paws and lay still. Even a dog wouldn't bark that night. Even the dog and tomorrow when we get into the war, you're gonna see some other people that didn't talk either.

But I've gotta close on the creation and get onto redemption. Now look in 1 Chronicles 17. I want you to see in 1 Chronicles 17 this wonderful truth. What did the sea see when the sea saw? It saw the God of creation so it fled. Also there is the God of redemption. In 1 Chronicles 17:20, "O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?" Now notice the redemption of Israel was a planned divine act. It was not an afterthought with God. God went down there to redeem his people.

Now I want you to know Calvary and our redemption was not an afterthought with God, he came knowing, he came to do the Father's will and go to the cross for you and for me. You are redeemed on purpose. You're not a little old red-headed step-child that drug up on the back door of God's house and whined until God took you in. No sir. No sir. No sir. God intentionally planned to save you. It is a divine deliberate act by God.

That ought to make me think about being saved in a little different way. You're gonna find out how Israel went out of there, boy, you're gonna be surprised, 430 years they were slaves, 430 years they were in bondage, but where do you see them come out? And the reason you're gonna see a difference in them, I don't know how they were as slaves, no doubt, they drug around, looked out, no doubt but, boy, when God brought them out, where do you see?

Now look in your Bible in 1 Kings 8. You're right close by. You need to see that in 1 Kings 8 in verse 51, God gives the nation of Egypt a most unusual name, an unusual designation. It'll help you to understand the God of redemption. 1 Kings 8:51, "For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt." Now remember yesterday how I told you that until the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost repeats more frequently, more often, the deliverance of Israelites from Egypt through the Red Sea than any other miracle? Notice how you can just turn many many many places in the Bible and there it is again. Well, here it is again, "For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt," now notice this designation, "from the midst of the furnace of iron." Now think about what it meant for Israel to be in bondage, not just a furnace but an iron furnace. You remember how Nebuchadnezzar heated the furnace seven times hotter than it ought to be heated? I know you've read this but you remember how they made the Israelites serve with rigor, they made his life hard with bondage. If there was a little boy baby born, they had to hide it or it was marked to be killed. It was an awful place and an iron furnace. I mean, it was not like a fire escape, I mean, a fireplace that would have a way out. On every side, on every side, oh, the furnace was red hot. They were in the midst of it. I tell you, Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego, they weren't the first Jews to ever be in the furnace, not the first at all, and you ought not to be amazed that God saved three Jews, God saved a million of them, and ain't there a song, men, that said something about he's still in the fire so when you get there, something like that, Brother B? Isn't that your song or something? It's either you or the McBride's. I know. But anyhow. Boy, he saved them out of that iron furnace.

Now look in your Bible in Exodus 13. It's wonderful to see, to watch the Lord through all of this, and in Exodus 13, if you think about Israel being in an iron furnace, their slavery was a bondage in the iron furnace. Boy, I'm stressing that. Look, people, I don't know how to say this and this may not be right but I'm just gonna say it, there ain't hardly any easy sinners left. Let me get in deeper, they seem to me to be all hard cases. I remember back in the 60s and 70s, you could lead somebody to the Lord, Brother Moore, and they'd be down the aisle Sunday. No problem. If they told you, "We'll be there," in the 60s and 70s, you could count on it and they'd be down the aisle. But if you talk to pastors and folks today, boy, even after they've prayed, it is a battle to go on from there. There is 10

million pieces of opposition to it, isn't it? And what I'm trying to do is to encourage you. Yes, America is a nation of wicked sinners but we've got a great God and you dare not sit down and say, "It's too hard. I'm gonna jump into it evangelism. I'm gonna..." No. No. No. These people were in bondage 430 years, you ain't never met a sinner that old. You ain't never met a drunk that's been on the bottle 430 years.

And they were in an iron furnace but in Exodus 13, notice and I'll point it out to you, it's there 1, 2, 3, 4 times. Exodus 13:3, "And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage," now notice this, "for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place." By strength of hand. Look again in verse 9, "And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt." In verse 14, "And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage." Verse 16, "And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt." Always in chapter 13 after you see that their bondage was an iron furnace, God is the only one I know that could go down and open the door on the iron furnace and reach his glorious arm in and gather up his people out of the iron furnace and say, "That's all she wrote, Mister Devil. You had them long enough." I don't know of nobody else's hand strong enough to touch an iron furnace, do you? I don't know anybody else, do you know anybody else? Do you know anybody? No wonder you can't save them. No wonder you every program fails. I'll tell you what we need, we need to see that God is still able. He can touch the iron furnace.

How do you get an old bartender's son out? How do you get an old bookie out? How do you get somebody that's big and ugly out? When they get this big and this ugly, they get mean with it too. When I first started to come here, he'd pick you up and go whirlybirding you. He can't do it no more but he used to. He'd dare these kids around here to say anything, he'd snatch them up over his head and whirlybird them. Yeah, whirlybird. Do you know that, Julie? Remember those days? Whirlybird them. Where'd you go? Now you know why we have testimonies? Hey, you ought to say, "Glory to God, I'm going back. I'm going to get back on my bus route. I'm going to be a soul-winner again." God's still able to do it. Look how he takes an old bartender's son and a bookie and a meanie and saves his soul and gives him this wonderful work and is with him throughout. Is God dead? No! Our quitting just means we don't see God whose hand is strong enough to redeem out of the fiery furnace, out of furnace of iron.

None of us are able to touch the iron door. None of us, but he can. He can. He can and we do not need and we dare not forget that in these last days that we're going to die backslidden. Oh, I'm telling you, when you give up on sinners, God just lets you go to play in church. You evangelists travel every week, am I right? Is that right, Brother TD? You see these churches that are not chasing sinners anymore, there's no great long list of sinners that need to be saved and I'll tell you, it's dead as 4 o'clock in the morning and I don't care, I know you men are great evangelists and, John, you're an evangelist when

you want to be, but you ain't gonna revive that outfit. You ain't gonna revive them. Do you know why that man has done that, preacher? Do you know why he wasn't there 30 minutes in advance? I dare say and I don't know him and I don't know this, but I dare say he didn't have a single sinner on his mind that might come to church that night. Have you been chasing sinners like you should? Boy, I didn't get much out of that, did I? Some of you like just plowing around that Bible but you don't like me bringing it down and rubbing it right on top of your shingles until they start standing up.

But I'm not interested in just knowing this truth, I want to know what it means to me today, Brother K. I want to know what it means. I want to know that God went in after a million people, a million people. Why, I hear some of you saying, "Well, these are the last days." It's pretty late for the nation of Israel too, honey, and God still came away with a million. If he can come out with at least a million, the Rock of Ages ought to have 100,000 of them. I ain't hanging around you and I ain't eating lunch with you. I'm gonna stay in the Bible until I see God. I don't care how hot the furnace is. Did he not say in the book of Jude, snatching out of the burning? Didn't he say it, Brother Moore? I know it ain't an exact quote. Didn't he say that? Didn't he say that, snatch right out of the burning? Do you know what that's talking about? That's going all the way back when they were in an iron furnace and it was red hot and there was no hope, 430 years of bondage.

God came down. I don't even think he spit on his hand, "I'll be able to get that." I bet he just walked up. I wouldn't have trouble believing when he jerked up on the door it came off its hinges. When he's done with Egypt, he put their fire out. Do you know that iron furnace when the water starts coming in, woo, he put that fire out and he looked in and said, "Them's my people and I came for them." He brought them out.

Now they were in bad shape and here we are, we've got a night, a day and a night to get across this Red Sea, a night, a day and a night. We've got all these people, they've been slaves, they've been in an iron furnace, they're in bad shape and somebody said and that's what fools these people about this three day journey down to the waters of Marah, they can't understand that, that's what fouls them up, but I want to show you something in the book of Psalms. What's the first thing God did for these people? In Psalm 105 if you'll look there with me, boy, he is a wonderful Savior. He is a wonderful Savior to me. In Psalm 105 just look with me a minute in verse 37. I'll give you time to find it because I actually want you to see it. Psalm 105:37, "He brought them forth also with silver and gold," and we'll find out where they go that when we get back in the book of Exodus, but here's why I brought you over here for, "and there was not one feeble person among their tribes." Now tomorrow when we get in the war, we're gonna see that that war is a lot like home-going time and there was not one feeble person. That slave that they had beat that very day because he didn't make enough bricks, that wife and they didn't have medicine perhaps and, oh, you know how slaves are, you know how terrible condition they are. Do you know when they started out across there, nobody had a bad leg. There were no blind people saying, "Please, please don't leave me. I know I can't go fast but don't leave me." There were no deaf people, Brother, saying, "What did he say? What did he say? Where are we going? Who knows sign language?" There was not one feeble person. Not one.

Do you believe the book? That's why after he got them out, he brought them in and said, "Now listen to me, I'm gonna make a covenant with you people and if you keep it," listen what he said, "I'll not put on you any of the diseases you saw down in Egypt." The reason for that was they had no disease. Every one of them was healed. It was just like the millennium. It was home-going time. You can't get a million people across the Red Sea, some of them in wheelchairs, little old kids being... No, sir. They strutted out there. Every one of them had been touched by God. Every one of them had been healed. Every one of them knew, "Hey, look at me, wifey. My leg don't hurt no more. Watch me kick, wifey. Watch me kick. Glory to God, wifey, my heal don't hurt no more."

Now I go through the airports and Judy's saying, "Take your time. Now quit hurrying. Walk slow. Ain't no need to hurry." The other day she called a wheelchair and a man showed up with a wheelchair and she said, "It's for him." I said, "I ain't getting in that wheelchair." The guy stood there while me and Judy had a fight. I drug through the airport and it was a-killing me but I wasn't a-riding in no dumb wheelchair.

Well, it wouldn't have been like that in going time, boys. Woo!! He healed them every one. That's why if you'll come back to the book of Exodus again in Exodus 14, one of the great preachers told me yesterday that this is Dr. Sitler's favorite verse or a verse he uses and I believe it was Brother Talbert and I can't say it like Dr. Sitler says it, I can't, Brother Talbert, and I'll probably say it wrong, but that's why in Exodus 14:18, look there with me just a minute, but God led the people about through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea and the children of Israel, Exodus 14:18, and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. Harnessed. Now what's that mean? It means to be stout. If you're talking about the abdomen, it means to be obese. It means they were fat. It means they were able-bodied. It means they were staunch.

Look at me. They wandered 430 years doing their jobs, serving their Egyptian masters, heads down, beaten, beaten, beaten, but when God came down and laid his hand on the iron furnace and brought them out, he healed them every one. Look at me, every one stood up strong like a man of strength, like a man that had everything. Do you want to know what it is in the book of Hebrews? Here it is in the book of Hebrews, "Lift up your hands that hang down." You're a child of the King. You've been delivered out of the fiery furnace. You can afford to shout. You can afford to go out harnessed. You're alright. Get your hands up.

They didn't go how far you think it is to the land that flows with milk and honey. "I don't believe wifey can hardly make it. Is it very far?" No, sir. It means they were strutting their stuff five abreast. They stared at their Egyptian masters and every one of them said, and the dogs that they used to sic on them said, and Israel got a hold of things and Israel realized, "Hey, you know, he owes me some back wages." Look in chapter 12. Boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, I like this. I like this.

Look at this in Exodus 12:31, "And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people," Pharaoh's talking, "both ye and the children of Israel; and go." Boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy. "And the Egyptians

were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians." Spoiled, and they went out of there strong, healed, staunch, obese. It was one night. it was alright to be fat. Maybe they were fat with all the extra clothing, with all the gold and the silver and the jewels that the Egyptians...

Boy, you know, I read that I can't help this but there's a heap of our kind that are not loved today in our nation. Brother Burgess said it this morning. You hear that low down crew on tv and they are always putting forward the queers and all that stuff. Do you know the God I serve is great enough that it's no trouble at all and quicker than any others can speak of it, God could do something in those people's lives up there that they'd be calling down here saying, "Brother Smith, we know you're Bible believers, would you and the church please pray for..." If God don't bless me. Do you believe that? Would you look me straight in the God-given eyeball, it ain't gonna be done by a bunch of you people watching Rush Limbaugh but if you'll get in the prayer closet and pray, do you know?

Look in Exodus 3. I thought we were going to get done all early today and we may yet, I'm just trying to close out wherever the best part is but in Exodus 3, I just want you to see something in verse 7, "And the LORD said," Exodus 3:7, "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows." That's the trouble with you, that's why you're so discouraged today and depressed, you think God, everything's alright in heaven, the sea of glass, there's no waves on the sea of glass, no storm rages on the sea of glass, it is smooth, and you think God is up there in his rocking chair and rose-colored glasses and he don't know about our sorrows down here but I'll tell you, he does know. He knew it in the Old Testament, he knew it in the New. He said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Notice verse 8, "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me." Oh my. Oh, God give us hearts that cry out if we want revival, if we want to see souls saved down here.

Somebody said it yesterday, if we quit going around criticizing such people as Brother K.'s pastor who does have souls saved, we'd quit going around criticizing people that do report souls saved – look at me – you can like this or not but when I pastored back in the 60s and 70s, let me just start it this way, I want to talk about me. Do you know why Judy and I got saved on a Sunday night? Not because we were at church but because Pastor Phil M. said to the people that night, "We've not had a single person saved today and that's not right, people, and I want every one of you on the way home to witness to

somebody. If you stop for milk, if you stop for something for the kids, if you stop for gas, find somebody to witness to and tell them about the Lord. It's a shame that we're closed this Sunday and not had anybody saved." As soon as he amended it and the people left, he grabbed his Bible and came and knocked on the door, 2229 W. Drive, Jacksonville, FL. The lights were already out downstairs but the lights were yet on upstairs for Judy was tucking a little one year old boy in his crib and that preacher set in to knocking on the door.

I tell you, God can still hear our cries, our groanings. God came down, "Look at me." I don't know that they were praying for deliverance but they were praying because of the severe bondage and God delivered them. He came to redeem them. He said, "I heard it. They've got them in an iron furnace and I mean to jerk the door off and kick the slats out of it. Me and my people are leaving out." Can you imagine a people coming out of a furnace healed? That's what amazed Nebuchadnezzar. Do you know he got those three people together and he looked them over. The Bible said he even smelled to see if there was any smoke on them. All winter long he said, "My clothes smell like wood smoke, you don't even smell like you were in the furnace." That's why Egypt was silent. That's why the dogs said, "I don't believe it's a good night to bark." And see some old tomcat walk right by him and he said, "Puke, I ain't barking at you neither. I'm just trying to live. If I barked, I'd call attention to myself. I ain't barking at nothing."

And that's why they were harnessed, strutting, proud, lifted up. They'd see their Egyptian taskmasters and say, "You didn't never pay me no overtime." Do you know that Egyptian went to stripping off gold rings and watches and said, "That's right, I do owe you a little something. Is this your wife? Why, God bless her heart. How would you like to have a good coat, sister, it's kind of damp tonight?" The further they went, the prouder they got. Now it's true they're going to get out of here and get mighty scared. Woo! Boy, you should have seen them coming out on the other side.

Oh, the sea. Hey, look at me a moment. I'm going to close. I believe I am. Yeah, I am. I was thinking of something.

Hey, Michael, do something for me, would you? Hey, Johnny, come up here. I don't want him to use the girls. Michael, meet Johnny out there at the end and let's pretend, I know he has to be a little younger than he is right now but Michael, I want you to be a determined dad headed somewhere with your only son. A determined dad. A determined dad. He's been hurt, you're headed with him. I want you to go that way, I mean, like a determined dad. Do you know.... Look, look, stand a minute, Michael. Do you know there ain't hardly anybody will get in the way of a parent coming through with his children? Do you know if you see a daddy coming with his boy, do you know you're gonna get over? Do you know that? Do you know that? Hey, Brother Brian, let's say one of your girls got hurt and you was coming out through here, pick up one of them and come on. Come on. He carried them in his arms so it would be okay to do that. Do you know you ain't hardly gonna get in the way, here comes a daddy with his child, boy, he means business, don't he? Do you know the sea saw that and said, she saw that and said,

"You get in the midst of that. I ain't getting in the way. I ain't getting in the way." The sea saw it and fled.

Here come God with a million people, son, they're all healed, they're all stepping high, they're all obese, and do you realize all the Red Sea ever saw, all the Red Sea ever saw, Brother McBride, was you and Mrs. McBride. Can you imagine you were down at the river and they're going to throw your child in, Mrs. McBride? And all the sea had ever saw was tears and heads down and shoulders drooped. This was a nation of slaves and all it ever heard was Mrs. McBride wailing, "My child! My child! Don't throw my child to the alligators!" Brother Roloff said he found out what angels did, angels are crocodile herders because when Moses' mom put him in there, the angel said, "Alright, boys, everybody to the other side. Come on, come on, get over there!" And all the crocs went over and crawled up on the other bank and an angel stood there and said, "If any of you move, I'll have me a new belt. Do you understand that?" And that little old ark bobbed right then and do you know right today crocodiles, the wild crocodile kills more human beings than any other wild beast on the face of the earth. It eats more human beings every year than any other wild beast. That little old ark bobbed there and bobbed there until the princess could come down. There wasn't a crocodile, their bellies weren't even growling and she said, "We don't eat him. No."

Do you know the Red Sea had never seen anybody but a slave crying, weeping and wailing and that night when God, their heavenly Father, stepped out in front of them and started down through the passage that he had opened for he had come to get them, they ain't going this way, "Now don't go too fast, Brother McBride, the ground ain't dry quite yet." They didn't say, "Now let's go a little slower. Daddy, we're going too fast, the water ain't opening." Nah, no, when God came for them, she was open all the way to the end. Now they couldn't see that but it was already done, the mountains had hopped in their old places like lambs and said, "Here he comes! Here he comes!" The waters stood up and said, "I surrender! I surrender! I surrender!" The dogs said, "I don't see nothing."

Ain't nobody gets in the way of a daddy with his child. Can you imagine stepping in front of John Smith if he was taking James to do whatever daddy has to do when you have a James and a Johnny, not little girls, but just James's and Johnny's. I'm picking on James. You just don't get in the way, do you?

Well, thank you all. I guess I'd better do this, let's look two places in Exodus, come to the New Testament and close today. I keep talking about God, I want you to be sure you know who he is. In Exodus 14:19 here is one designation for him. Exodus 14:19, "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel," there he is called the angel of God.

In Isaiah 63 having to do with the Red Sea, the angel is given yet another name in Isaiah 63:9, "In all their affliction he was afflicted," boy, oh boy, oh boy, Isaiah 63:9, "and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he

bare them, and carried them all the days of old." The angel of God, the angel of his presence.

1 Corinthians 10. Let's be sure we know exactly, we know who the angel is, we know the angel of God, we know the angel of his presence, we know the angel of the covenant, here's who he is, 1 Corinthians 10, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock," capital R-o-c-k, "that followed them," read it out loud with me, "and that Rock was Christ." The angel of God and the angel of his presence is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God.

One more place, Hebrews 11. Brother John, decide then what you desire for us to do for this will be the last verse. I'm not preaching only that I might show you about the opening of the Red Sea but my desire is that your faith in God, that God might become, how did John the Baptist say? Say it with me: that he might increase and I might decrease. Brother John, we commend you our brother, Brother Bruce, and you the dear church that's here, we commend you, Brother John. Oh, what a godly example you are to us to believe that in these last days Hurricane needs a building of this size. While most are pulling in, thank God, Brother John, I mean this, you step out boldly across there because that's the way I perceive you and this church and this ministry, stepping out boldly. Now why is that? Does Brother John know there are a lot of wealthy people in this church? Does Brother John know that So-and-so and So-and-so and So-and-so, they're all millionaires, they're fat cats? No. No. But I believe this from within, John looks back yesterday, got all crying over how God saved his dad. It took a great God to save your dad. What about your brother-in-law that kept sitting in the back or on the second row for years when we'd come here and God saved him, didn't he? From within, John has found grace to see a great God in these last days and that's why instead of shoulders droop, hands down, feet to a frazzle, John just coming up to the platform makes me get out of the way. I ain't getting in his way. I know why he always won at basketball, all he did was run down the floor and everybody moved. "Here, John, have the ball." Huh? Would you jump in front of him if he had something on his mind? No.

Well, look at this, Brother John, this is why I'm preaching on the Red Sea, this is what I'd like for it to do to you, Hebrews 11:27, "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Now that's just gonna determine what you do in these days if you can't see him who is invisible, but if you see him who is invisible, then your hands can be up like Hebrews says, "Go ye!" And the opening of the Red Sea, all of it through the Scriptures, only has one purpose. God doesn't say, "I'm gonna show you how big I am." No, God said, "You just study and let your heart begin to feel I must have been a big God, John." Woo, man! Boy, I'd like to have a God so big when I went soul-winning and I walked up and said, "Bad dog. Extra bad dog. Bad, bad, bad dog."

I trust these few mornings will stir you until you see him who is invisible, straighten up your shoulders, lift up your hands and chin down, make straight paths for your feet. Tomorrow the God of war. He's coming for his own.