

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 12-14

Every year for the last 3,450 years Jews all over the world have observed the ancient celebration called, Passover. Jewish families join in *a seder*, or ceremony that revolves around a meal... They remember the night recorded in Exodus 12...

During the Passover meal there is a moment when the youngest child in the family asks the father four questions...

1) *Why is this night distinguished from all other nights? On this night we eat only unleavened bread.* 2) *On all other nights we eat any kind of herbs, but on this night only bitter herbs. Why?* 3) *On all other nights we do not dip (our vegetables in the salt water), but tonight we dip twice. Why?* 4) *On this night we all recline in our chairs at the table. Why?*

The father then uses these four questions to springboard into the story we'll read about tonight... God instituted the Passover because he wanted the events recorded in Exodus 12 remembered by every succeeding Hebrew generation...

Verse 1, **“Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.”** The next day the Hebrews would leave the land of Egypt and 400 years of harsh bondage. It would mark a new beginning. Israel would be free!

This was so monumental God altered the calendar to mark its significance.

Prior to their deliverance the first month of the Jewish year was in the fall – the month of Tishri. Now it'll be celebrated in

the spring – with the month of Nisan.

Today, Jews recognize both new years. Tishri is the first month on the *civil calendar* and Nisan the first month on *the sacred or religious calendar*.

As we study the Passover it's important to remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

In a million ways the Passover is a type of Jesus. It foreshadows the freedom He brings when we enter our lives. And here's a good example of the typology...

As the Passover launched a new day for Israel, the work of Jesus marked a new day in world history – and it too, sparked a change in the calendar.

Pope Gregory replaced the distinction *Anno Mundi*, or "Year of the World", with *Anno Domini* or "Year of our Lord."... Which is where we get the abbreviation *A.D. (Anno Domini)*. Rather than dating years from creation, western countries today count their years from the birth of Christ. *Jesus has also altered our calendar!*

In verse 3 God tells Moses, "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.'" Years later the rabbis specified you needed at least 10 people per lamb. If you have more than twenty guests a second lamb

was required.

Verse 5, “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.” On Nisan 10<sup>th</sup> a lamb was chosen to be sacrificed. This was the same day Jesus rode His donkey down the Mount of Olives to the cheers of the crowd. The Jews thought they were welcoming a king – they didn’t know they were also choosing a Passover lamb.

“Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.” Four days later, on Passover - the lamb was supposed to be taken to the Tabernacle and sacrificed.

Jesus was crucified on the day of Passover and died just before twilight.

Verse 7, “And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.” On that night in Egypt the blood of the lamb was spread on the door posts and thresholds of the houses.

“Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.” The **unleavened bread** was a symbol of their faith – they were leaving Egypt the next day and there wouldn’t be time for the bread to rise. **Bitter herbs** were a reminder of the 400 years of bitter bondage.

Verse 9, “Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire - its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until

morning you shall burn with fire.” The sacrifice was totally consumed... which is why Jesus died such a horrific death. Jesus gave His all on the cross – nothing was leftover. He paid the full penalty for our sin.

“And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste.” No need to stock the frig with cold cuts - they were ready to leave. The Jews believed they’d leave Egypt the next day, so they spent the night in their boots. Their bags were packed.

Moses said of the meal they were eating, “It is the LORD's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast (even the firstborn of the animals would die); and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.”

As we talked about last week the judgment on Egypt was a direct assault on its idols. Each plagued called out a different Egyptian god. Even this last plague was against the Pharaoh’s firstborn – his heir – who the people also considered a god.

And note, the Hebrews were as vulnerable to this last plague as the Egyptians.

We discussed last week how Israel also stooped to worship false gods while in Egypt. There were a few plagues that God engineered to bypass the Hebrews in Goshen - but not this one. Death will come to Israel as well as the Egyptians unless they take advantage of the remedy God prescribes in verse

13...

“Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” Understand salvation that night had nothing to do with the purity of the people inside the house. In fact, if you were a moral person, and you assumed the judgment would pass over because of your goodness – *sorry, say good-bye to your big brother*. Death would strike.

Salvation came to folks who knew they needed the blood, and applied it to their house. They trusted in God’s promise to accept the blood as payment for their sin.

And this is how eternal destinies are decided today. Trust in your own merit and you’re a goner. Trust in the blood of Jesus and judgment will **pass over** you.

Verse 14, “So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.”

Unleavened bread was a twofold type... In the Bible *leaven speaks of sin*. It’s the perfect picture of sin – like leaven, or yeast, sin corrupts by puffing up. Ridding a house of leaven is a picture of us ridding our lives of pride and evil habits.

And unleavened bread also speaks of faith. Israel believed their deliverance was imminent. They were ready to leave at

any moment. A Christian needs this same attitude. At any moment we could be called home to heaven.

Verse 16, “On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the 7th day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat - that only may be prepared by you.

So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt.

Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. In the 1<sup>st</sup> month, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month at evening.

For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.”

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

And you shall take a bunch of hyssop,” Blood is applied with hyssop – which was a leafy branch that could absorb and retain fluid. “Dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and

when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.”

“And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' “that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.”

So the people bowed their heads & worshiped. Then the children of Israel went away & did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses & Aaron, so they did.”

“And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.”

That night the destroyer – perhaps an angel – came on every bloodless house in Egypt. Remember 7 million people lived in Egypt. The population of metro Atlanta is over 6 million. Imagine, every house in suburban Atlanta losing its firstborn.

That’s the scale of death we’re talking about. It was an enormous tragedy.

There is some historical evidence for this judgment... *Pharaoh Amenhotep II* was succeeded by a son, *Thutmose IV* – a King Thut... There’s an ancient slab engraved with writing

that was found near the Great Sphinx, which records a dream received by Thutmose IV. In it he tries to legitimize his right to the throne.

Obviously, if he'd been Amenhotep's firstborn – his right to rule would've gone unquestioned. Apparently though, he was not. He was probably a younger sibling. And it's assumed the firstborn brother, and original heir, died in this tenth plague.

Verse 30, "So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. Also take your flocks & your herds, as you have said, & be gone; & bless me also." And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

"So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians." It was some *peaceful plundering*... And these will become the materials they'll use to build the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

Verse 37, "Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 men on foot, besides



children.” That could be 2-3 million people.

“A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds - a great deal of livestock.” This mixed multitude included everyone who had jumped on Moses’ bandwagon. There were Egyptians who had believed in God’s promise, slaves from other countries who believed, and Egyptians who’d married Hebrews.

“And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.” When you work for the Pharaoh he doesn’t give you a lot of time off to shop for your exodus.

Verse 40, “Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was 430 years. And it came to pass at the end of the 430 years - on that very same day - it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”

According to verse 41, the Hebrews left Egypt the exact same day they entered, 430 years later. They left on the anniversary of Jacob’s arrival. It was God’s way of affirming that He had never forgotten *His people*, or *His covenant with them*.

He continues describing the Passover... “It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their genera-

tions.

And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones." This is why not one of Jesus' bones was broken – it was a fulfillment of the Passover.

Verse 47, "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies."

This is a band of rag-tag, undisciplined, unskilled slaves - they have zero military training - yet this is the third time they're called "the armies of the LORD".

Evidently God delivered Israel from *bondage* to fight His *battles*. And it was vital to be ready... *The same is true for us...* The Christian life is a battle. It's a struggle to overcome sin, and win over sinners. After God delivers us from bondage He arms us for warfare. He thrusts us into spiritual combat. Expect a battle.

In chapter 13, God gives the freed Hebrews two reminders of their deliverance.

They're to keep **the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, and **offer God the firstborn of their flocks and families**. Both memorials teach significant lessons...

Verse 1, "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine." Since God saved the firstborn of the Hebrews from the destroyer, so now He expects the Hebrews to "consecrate" or "*dedicate*" their firstborn to Him.

Here's the principle for us - **the redeemed of the Lord belong to the Lord**. You don't buy a car for someone else to own and drive. You expect to possess what you purchase. Likewise, *God purchases a person to take possession of them*.

*He wants to rule what He redeems* – especially the people He saves.

Verse 3, "And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. On this day you are going out, in the month Abib." The Hebrew word "Ab" means "*green*". And the month of Abib was the same month everything turned green - our March / April.

Abib is another name for the month of Nisan. And in the month of Abib, along with Passover, the Jews were to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

“And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters.” Remember *leaven is a biblical type for sin.*

*Passover was a symbol of our deliverance.* And notice Passover occurs first - then the Feast follows for 7 days. The same progression occurs in our lives...

When we come to Jesus, our Passover, He takes us *just as we are*, and *right where we're at*. He doesn't look at what or who is in the house. He only wants to see blood on the doorposts. God doesn't expect us to clean out the leaven to be saved - but once we're passed over and saved we'll want to rid ourselves of any attitude or action that might displease Him. We'll want to get rid of the leaven.

“And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' "It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.”

Notice the emphasis on sharing your deliverance story with your kids. *This is also the job of a Christian parent.* Talk to your kids about what Jesus means to you. Tell them your conversion story. Rehearse your sacred history with them.

Verse 11, "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD's."

This law of the firstborn required every big brother lamb, goat, or cow to be sacrificed to the Lord. The firstborn of every clean creature was sacrificed except for two species... *donkeys and humans were redeemed instead of sacrificed.*

*But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem."* A lamb took the place of the firstborn donkey. Humans were redeemed with a sum of money... It became an offering to the Lord.

Isn't it interesting, *that donkeys and humans are paired together!*

It's because they're both notorious for being stupid and stubborn. Only once in Scripture are donkeys portrayed in a favorable light. Jesus rode a donkey at His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Which teaches us a lesson - just like a donkey, I become useful to God only when Jesus holds the reigns of my life.

Verse 14, “So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' God established these feasts and laws to make certain that future generations would never forget His work of deliverance and redemption.

Verse 16, "It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." God is saying never forget what I've done. Let it guide your actions and focus your thoughts.

Of course, the rabbis took verse 16 literally and wore phylacteries – straps and pouches of leather that contained Scripture portions. Orthodox Jews today literally carry the story of the exodus between their eyes and on the back of their hands.

“Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.”

There's an old joke you've probably heard, "Why did the children of Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years?" *The answer?* "Because Moses was like most men on a trip, and was too stubborn to stop and ask for directions!"

Although the joke illustrates a truth about the male species, it's not biblical. Moses was not the one who led the children of Israel – *God was their guide.*

God didn't lead Israel out of bondage to abandon them. They'd been *freed so they could follow...* And this is why you and I have been forgiven, and set free - to follow Jesus. God doesn't save us, just so we can pack a pew until He returns.

No, after we're saved we embark on a journey. He has purposes for us.

God promised Israel He would lead them to a *new land*, but first He has to teach them a *new way*. God takes them to Mount Sinai, where Moses got his marching orders. There He'll give them His law, and teach them to worship.

Verse 19, "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day & night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people." Israel had a miracle for a map – a supernatural guidance system. In front of the camp you could see a column of

cloud in the day, and a wall of fire at night.

When God walked through the animal parts to seal the covenant with Abraham, He appeared as a burning torch and a smoking censer... *a fire and a cloud*. And for the next 40 years that's how God will lead the Hebrews through the Midianite desert... *When God moves, Moses moves. When God stops, Moses stops.*

Chapter 14 contains one of the most spectacular miracles of all time...

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea.” Unfortunately, we no longer can identify these locations. The exact site of the Red Sea crossing is unknown.

People speculate that they must've camped among high rock walls and steep cliffs because when the Egyptians attack they make no attempt to run and escape.

Verse 3, “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.”

Pharaoh will think he has the Hebrews trapped, but God is the one Who is setting him up for an ambush. The Pharaoh is about to be *all washed up!*



Verse 5, “Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took 600 choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.

So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.” The Pharaoh and his cavalry found the Hebrews with their backs against the wall – *a wall of ocean water...*

I’m sure Pharaoh and his bloodthirsty troops were licking their chops when they saw the Hebrews all dressed up with nowhere to go. Yul Bryner said in the movie, “**This is the work of a butcher, not a Pharaoh.**” It’s what the real Pharaoh thought.

Verse 10, “And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.” How quickly they forgot God’s power.

“Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us

alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

How ungrateful! How negative, and unbelieving, and skeptical. Here Israel reveals her true colors... Any faith she had in Egypt has now disappeared.

Hey, every time I get to this part in *"The Ten Commandments"* I want to grab that weaslely little Edward G. Robinson and slap him silly. God did miracles and wonders to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt, why wouldn't He do wonders again?

Guys, we all need to consider this for your own sake – let's apply this truth to our own situation... *Think about it, does God ever run out of miracles?*

Verse 13 tells us, "And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

Perhaps tonight, you're in an impossible situation. You're hemmed in and you've got no where to run. Listen to the three things Moses says...

**"Do not be afraid"** Don't cave in to fear and doubt. Your faith is being tested.

**"Stand still"** Your frantic efforts are only complicating the situation, and giving the enemy reason to boast. Chill for a little while... The Lord will fight this battle.

Then **"see the salvation of the Lord"** Keep your eyes on Jesus. Trust in His hidden resources. He has ways and tools

and plans you know nothing about.

“And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.” The posture of faith is usually forwards not backwards.

God fills Moses in on His plan in verse 16, “But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.” I wonder what Moses must’ve thought...

God tells him to lift his rod, stretch out his hand... then divide the sea. I’m sure he wondered how is A + B going to equal C... a divided Sea no less. I doubt if he had any concept of **what** was about to happen... Moses sure didn’t know **how** it would happen... All Moses knew was **Who** said it was going to happen.

And when you really know *Who* you don’t need to know *how* or *what*?

All God really explains to Moses is *why*... “And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” Moses step forward! God is about to gain honor.

Verse 19, “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.” Not only was Israel accompanied by a cloud and fire, but the Angel of God traveled with them... And Who is it that appears in the Old

Testament as God's messenger? *It's possible the pre-incarnate Christ led Israel out of Egypt!*

“So (the Angel and cloud) came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.”

God created space between the charging Egyptians and the Hebrews.

Verses 21-22 gives us the play-by-play of what happened next, “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.” The wind blew all night to dry out the ocean floor so the Hebrews could walk across it without sinking in the sludge. By daybreak it was dry ground.

“So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Imagine, being one of the Hebrews on the shore watching this take place. *I'll bet you didn't sleep.*

I suppose the Hebrews thought the Egyptians were the rat and they were the cheese. But God constructed a huge mouse trap, big enough to destroy the whole Egyptian army. And when the hedge of fire is removed the Egyptians take the bait.

“And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his

horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.

Verse 25, “And He took off their chariot wheels (God loosened the lug nuts), so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." They're in hot pursuit, when suddenly their wheels start wobbling. They lose their steering...

The Egyptians are the ones who are now trapped.

Verse 26, “Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”

Skeptics have tried to rationalize away this miracle with many different theories.

One man suggests the east wind froze the sea, and the Hebrews skated on the ice. Ridiculous! That requires a bigger miracle than wind holding back the waters.

Another man suggests the Hebrews crossed the Red sea in a marshy area, perhaps on a sand bar, where the water was only ankle deep. But if you accept that idea it forces you to believe in an even greater miracle – *how did God drown the Egyptian chariots and army in ankle deep water?* Guys, **God says what He means, and means what He says!** It's always best to take the Bible literally.

Verse 30 tells us the outcome, **“So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.**

**Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.”**