

Crossing the Red Sea

MEMORY VERSE: "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord" Exodus 14:13

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 12:37-51; 13;17-22; 14

AIM: To teach that The Lord is my strength, in Battle.

God wanted to show His power and Glory to His people, and all of Egypt by saving the Israelites from slavery. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was stubborn. God had a way to make Pharaoh let the Israelites leave their slavery. One night the first born child in every family died. God spared the Hebrew families who had obeyed God's command and sprinkled blood on the doorpost of their houses. The destroying angel passed over these houses and families.

Everywhere people were crying. Even the king was crying for his son was dead. Now, at last, the king was ready to obey God and let the Israelites leave Egypt.

In the land of Goshen there was much excitement. News spread quickly that Pharaoh had at last agreed to let them leave. They were overjoyed! There was no time to delay. Pharaoh might change his mind again. If they were going to leave, they must do so at once.

As the thousands of Israelites began to file out of Egypt, they noticed a cloud in front of them. It wasn't an ordinary cloud like the ones they saw every day. This cloud was traveling with them. Moses said that God was in the cloud. And God would lead His people all the way to Canaan. When the first darkness came, the cloud glowed with a light so beautiful that the people called it a pillar of fire.

Back in Egypt, Pharaoh and his people finally realized the Israelites had really departed. Now there were no slaves. How would Pharaoh get his beautiful buildings finished without their hard work?

"We shall get them back," Pharaoh declared. He gathered together an army including six hundred of his fastest war chariots, and they began to pursue the former slaves. Suddenly, far in the distance behind them they heard a rumbling noise.

Everyone felt terror. They saw the advancing chariots. Pharaoh had changed his mind and he was coming after them! Nearer and nearer the Egyptians came. The soldiers were behind them and the Red Sea was in front of them. "We're trapped!" the people cried.

They clambered around Moses and wailed, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness?" They had already forgotten how God

had delivered them from Egypt! But Moses hadn't forgotten.

"Don't be afraid," he said. "Watch and you will see the wonderful way God will rescue you today. He will fight for you."

Then God spoke to Moses. "Tell the people to start marching forward. Stretch out your rod over the waters. The sea will divide and the Israelites will walk across on dry land.

The pillar of cloud with God's presence moved from the front of the multitude to the back. It brought darkness to the pursuing Egyptians but shone like a light to the Israelites!

Then Moses did as God had commanded. He lifted up his rod high over the Red Sea and the people watched in awe. The waters divided and piled up on either side, leaving a clean dry pathway through the sea!

Quickly the people gathered together their children and flocks. All night long they walked across the dry bed of the sea with the high walls of water on either side of them.

When the Egyptians saw that their slaves had crossed the Red Sea and gotten away Pharaoh shouted, "After them!" The Egyptians raced their chariots onto the sea bed.

Then something strange started happening. God made the wheels of the chariots fall off. The drivers urged their horses on but it was no use.

Now the Egyptian army was beginning to feel frightened. "Let's go back!" they called to each other but it was too late.

God told Moses to stretch out his rod again. Moses obeyed. With a mighty roar the waters came crashing down; Catching the Egyptian army by surprise and destroying it.

Then Moses and the people sang a song. "I will sing unto the Lord for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and rider hath He thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength, my salvation."

God had saved His people again. Even though they complained and doubted, God showed His faithfulness once again.