

# CROSSING THE RED SEA



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*“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace”*  
**Exodus 14:13-14.**

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## The Pharoah of the Exodus “knew not Joseph?”

Exodus 1:8 says: “There arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.”

Have you ever wondered how it could be that this Pharoah in Egypt knew not Joseph while Israel was still residing there? We find the secret in a wonderful Bible history book called, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pgs. 332-333:

“Joseph was faithful to God, and his fidelity was a constant testimony to the true faith. It was to quench this light that Satan worked through the envy of Joseph’s brothers to cause him to be sold as a slave in a heathen land. (Genesis 37:12-36.) God overruled events, however, so that the knowledge of Himself should be given to the people of Egypt. Both in the house of Potiphar and in the prison Joseph received an education and training that (Genesis 39 & 40), with the fear of God, prepared him for his high position as prime minister of the nation (Genesis 41).”

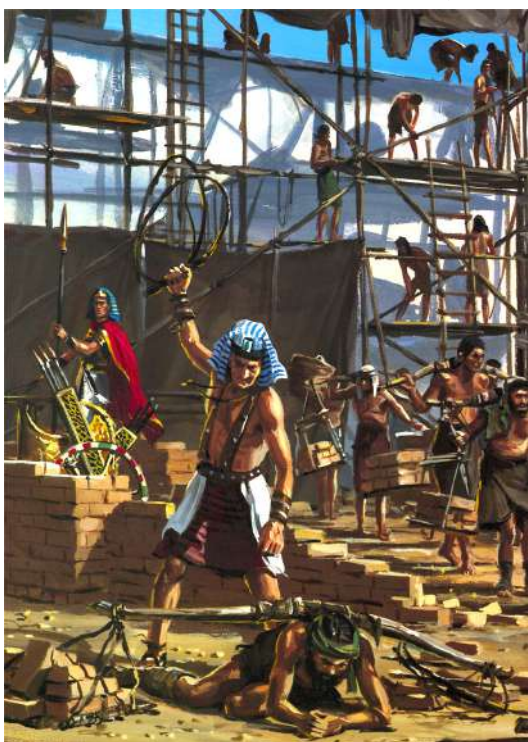
From the palace of the Pharaoh Joseph’s influence was felt throughout the land, and the knowledge of God spread far and wide. The Israelites in Egypt also became prosperous and wealthy, and those true to God exerted a widespread influence. **The idolatrous priests were filled with alarm as they saw the new religion finding favor. Inspired by Satan with his own enmity toward the God of heaven, the priests set themselves to quench this light. To them was committed the education of the heir to the throne, and it was this spirit of determined opposition to the God of heaven and zeal for idolatry that molded the character of the future monarch, and led to the cruelty and oppression toward the Hebrews.**

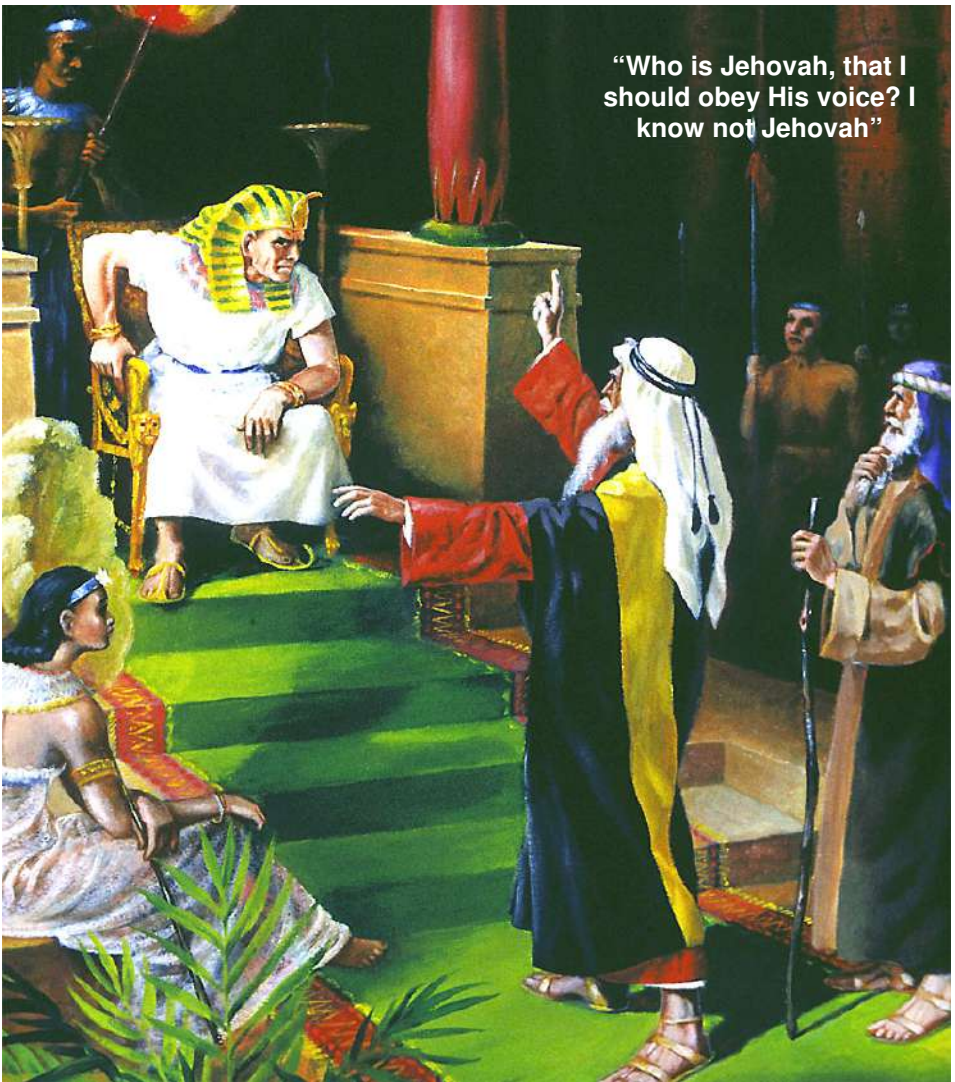


“During all the years of servitude in Egypt there had been among the Israelites some who adhered to the worship of Jehovah. These were sorely troubled as they saw their children daily witnessing the abominations of the heathen, and even bowing down to their false gods. In their distress they cried unto the Lord for deliverance from the Egyptian yoke, that they might be freed from the corrupting influence of idolatry. They did not conceal their faith, but declared to the Egyptians that the object of their worship was the Maker of heaven and earth, the only true and living God. They rehearsed the evidences of His existence and power, from creation down to the days of Jacob. The Egyptians thus had an opportunity to become acquainted with the religion of the Hebrews; but disdaining to be instructed by their slaves, they tried to seduce the worshipers of God by promises of reward, and this failing, by threats and cruelty.

“The elders of Israel endeavored to sustain the sinking faith of their brethren by repeating the promises made to their fathers, and the prophetic words of Joseph before his death, foretelling their deliverance from Egypt. Some would listen and believe. Others, looking at the circumstances that surrounded them, refused to hope. **The Egyptians, being informed of what was reported among their bondmen, derided their expectations and scornfully denied the power of their God. They pointed to their situation as a nation of slaves, and**

**tauntingly said, ‘If your God is just and merciful, and possesses power above that of the Egyptian gods, why does He not make you a free people?’ They called attention to their own condition. They worshiped deities termed by the Israelites as false gods, yet they were a rich and powerful nation. They declared that their gods had blessed them with prosperity, and had given them the Israelites as servants, and they gloried in their power to oppress and destroy the worshipers of Jehovah. Pharaoh himself boasted that the God of the Hebrews could not deliver them from his hand. (Ibid. p. 259.)**





“Who is Jehovah, that I should obey His voice? I know not Jehovah”

So it was that during the forty years after the flight of Moses from Egypt (Exodus 1 & 2), idolatry seemed to have conquered. Year by year the hopes of the Israelites grew fainter. Both king and people exalted in their power, and mocked the God of Israel. This grew until it culminated in the Pharaoh who was confronted by Moses. When the Hebrew leader came before the king with a message from “Jehovah, God of Israel,” **it was not ignorance of the true God, but defiance of His power**, that prompted the answer, “Who is Jehovah, that I should obey His voice? ... I know not Jehovah” (Exodus 5:1-2). From first to last, Pharaoh’s opposition to the divine command was not the result of ignorance, but of **hatred and defiance**. So what was the final result of

this defiance against the God of heaven and the enslavement of the children of Israel by the leaders—priests and king of Egypt?

The slaying of their firstborn in the 10th plague in Egypt (Exodus 11), then the whole army of men and priests were drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 14). The land was completely decimated of leadership. To this day Egypt has never been a leader of nations. **It does not pay to stand against truth and righteousness.**

### **A Hardened Heart**

Another phrase in this story that we need to discuss is about the hardened heart. In Exodus 7:13-14 as well as other verses beyond, it says that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Further on in the story it says that the Lord hardened his heart. Did the Lord really harden Pharaoh's heart? What is the meaning of this?

The “hardening” was in no way, an act of God, but rather, a deliberate choice on Pharaoh's part. He had been taught by the Egyptian priesthood to hate and defy the God of Israel. By repeated warnings and displays of divine power God sent light designed to point out to Pharaoh the error of his ways, to soften and subdue his heart, to lead him to co-operate with His will. But each successive manifestation from heaven left Pharaoh more determined to do as he pleased; refusing to be corrected. Pharaoh despised and rejected all the light of heaven until he became insensitive to it and the light was finally withdrawn. It was thus, his own resistance to the light that hardened his heart. Even the heathen recognized that it was Pharaoh and the Egyptians themselves who hardened their heart; not God.

When Moses was told by God that “the Lord would harden Pharaoh's heart” God was referring to the continual refusal the king would make to obey Him and to release Israel. God knows the end from the beginning and He saw ahead what Pharaoh's response would be. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires to lead them to repentance and salvation. (See Ezekiel 33:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 5:45 and Luke 15:7.)





As sun shines and affects different materials in different ways (it melts wax and hardens clay) so the influence of God's Holy Spirit upon hearts produces different effects according to the condition of the heart. The repentant sinner allows God's Spirit to lead him to conversion and salvation, but the impenitent hardens his heart more and more. The very same manifestations of God's mercy in the case of one, to salvation and to the other, judgment and death—to each according to his own choice.



## The 10 Plagues of Egypt

Why did God send plagues to Egypt?

“The Hebrews had expected to obtain their freedom without any special trial of their faith or any real suffering or hardship. But they were not yet prepared for deliverance. They had little faith in God, and were unwilling patiently to endure their afflictions until He should see fit to work for them. **Many were content to remain in bondage rather than meet the difficulties attending removal to a strange land;** and the habits of some had become so much like those of the Egyptians that they preferred to dwell in Egypt. Therefore the Lord did not deliver them by the first manifestation of His power before Pharaoh. He overruled events more fully to develop the tyrannical spirit of the Egyptian king and also to reveal Himself to His people. Beholding His justice, His power, and His love, **they would choose to leave Egypt** and give themselves to His service. The task of Moses would have been much less difficult had not many of the Israelites become so corrupted they were unwilling to leave Egypt. The Lord directed Moses to go again to the people and repeat the promise of deliverance, with a fresh assurance of divine favor. He went as he was commanded; but they would not listen. Says the Scripture, ‘They hearkened not ... for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage’ Exodus 6:9. Again the divine message came to Moses, ‘Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land’ verse 11. In discouragement he

replied, 'Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me?' verse 12. He was told to take Aaron with him and go before Pharaoh, and again demand that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

"He (Moses) was informed that the monarch would not yield until God should visit judgments upon Egypt and bring out Israel by the signal manifestation of His power. Before the infliction of each plague, Moses was to describe its nature and effects, that the king might save himself from it if he chose. Every punishment rejected would be followed by one, more severe, until his proud heart would be humbled, and he would acknowledge the Maker of heaven and earth as the true and living God. The Lord would give the Egyptians an opportunity to see how vain was the wisdom of their mighty men, how feeble the power of their gods, when opposed to the commands of Jehovah. He would punish the people of Egypt for their idolatry and silence their boasting of the blessings received from their senseless deities. God would glorify His own name, that other nations might hear of His power and tremble at His mighty acts, and that His people might be led to turn from their idolatry and render Him pure worship." *Patriarchs & Prophets*, pp. 260-263.

As a result, God sent a series of ten plagues on the land of Egypt, the first three affecting Israel as well. Each one was more severe than the previous one. After each plague, Pharaoh would harden his heart. Ultimately, the 10th plague, in which the firstborn of every family in Egypt died, convinced Pharaoh to let Israel go.

### **The Ten Plagues are as follows (Exodus 7-10):**

1. Water turned to blood - The Nile River was the source of food and wealth for all Egypt and was worshiped as a god. The fish died, the river became offensive to the smell, the water in houses and cisterns was undrinkable and they could not bathe or do laundry. For seven days the plague continued.
2. Frogs - The frog was also considered sacred and they would never destroy it. But now, it came out of the river and spread everywhere in the land. It overran the houses, even the bedchambers, the ovens and kneading troughs. The magicians could not remove them. When Moses prayed for the removal of frogs they died wherever they were and their putrid bodies polluted the atmosphere.
3. Lice - The dust of the land was turned into lice that infested people and animals and bit them unmercifully.
4. Flies - Swarms of large flies filled houses and covered the ground. Their bite was venomous and extremely painful causing great annoyance and distress. This plague did not cover Goshen where the major part of Israel dwelt.

5. Murrain, a livestock disease - affected the livestock. The cattle, sheep, horses, camels, and donkeys that were in the fields and owned by the Egyptians all died. If the animals were in barns they were spared, but Israel's cattle were not affected in the least.
6. Boils - Moses was directed to take ashes from the furnace and sprinkle it towards heaven. As it spread over the land and settled upon the inhabitants of Egypt, painful boils appeared on the skin of man and beast.
7. Hail - A severe hailstorm was announced. Pharaoh and his people were warned to bring animals from the fields to shelters. God was testing the people. Those who obeyed were saved from utter destruction. Those who did not believe suffered great loss. Thunder, hail and fire destroyed crops, man and beast that were outside.
8. Locusts - Swarms of locusts consumed all remaining vegetation. This noisome scourge covered fields, forests, filled houses and the palace—all dwellings were affected. The whole land outside of Goshen was threatened with starvation.
9. Darkness - This wall of darkness was so thick and black it could be felt. It settled upon the land, except Goshen, for three whole days.



## 10. The Final Plague

God is long-suffering and has a tender care for the beings formed in His image. **If the loss of harvest and flocks had brought Egypt to repentance, they would never have suffered the tenth plague.** But the nation had stubbornly resisted, now the final blow was about to fall.

The Lord gave Moses specific directions for Israel. Each family was to slay a lamb or a kid without blemish (which represented the death of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God) and paint the blood on the doorposts of the house. When the destroying angel saw the blood he would pass over at midnight. But those houses that had no blood, the firstborn of man and beast would die. This was the origin of the Passover.

At midnight there was a great cry in all of Egypt. From the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of captives in the dungeon, and the firstborn of animals—all were smitten by the destroying angel from heaven.

Finally, stubborn Pharaoh urged Israel to get out of Egypt—immediately! Israel was already packed and ready to depart.





## The Exodus

“With their loins girt, with sandaled feet, and staff in hand, the people of Israel had stood, hushed, awed, yet expectant, awaiting the royal mandate that should bid them go forth. Before the morning broke, they were on their way. During the plagues, as the manifestation of God’s power had kindled faith in the hearts of the bondmen and had struck terror to their oppressors, the Israelites had gradually assembled themselves in Goshen. Notwithstanding the suddenness of their flight, some provision had already been made for the necessary organization and control of the moving multitudes, they being divided into companies,

under appointed leaders.

“And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them” Exodus 12:37, 38.

“In this multitude were not only those who were actu-



ated by faith in the God of Israel, **but also a far greater number who desired only to escape from the plagues, or who followed in the wake of the moving multitudes merely from excitement and curiosity. This class were ever a hindrance and a snare to Israel.**

“The people took also with them ‘flocks, and herds, even very much cattle’ verse 38. These were the property of the Israelites, who had never sold their possessions to the king [during the 7 year famine for food], as had the Egyptians. Jacob and his sons had brought their flocks and herds with them to Egypt [from Canaan], where they had greatly increased. Before leaving Egypt, the people, by the direction of Moses, claimed a recompense for their unpaid labor; and the Egyptians were too eager to be freed from their presence to refuse them. The bondmen went forth laden with the spoil of their oppressors.

“That day completed the history revealed to Abraham in prophetic vision centuries before: ‘Thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance’ Genesis 15:13, 14” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 281).



### **The Cloud from Heaven**

The Israelites quickly departed from Egypt and began their journey. At the first, they did not know they would be going through the great wilderness of Midian in Arabia.

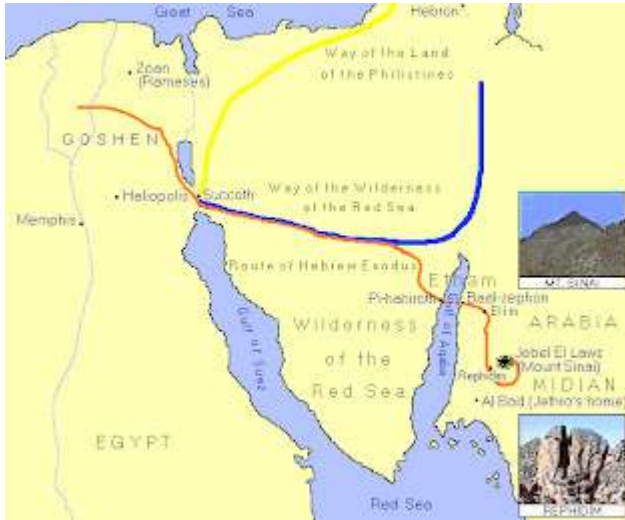
“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light; to go by day and night. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people” Exodus 13:21, 22.

All the way the Lord guided the people by the cloud. It was a shade from the hot sun during

the day and a light and protection at night. All along the way, they faced many challenges, including hunger, thirst, and attacks by other tribes. However, God provided for them in numerous and miraculous ways, giving them manna to eat and water to drink. But they missed many blessings due to their constant complaining spirit.

# The Parting of the Red Sea

The red line on the map shows the route taken by Israel. As they traveled in an easterly direction the people were following the cloud from heaven. They understood that where it went they were to follow. With 2-3 million people and all their cattle and other animals. they were



not able to travel on foot very far each day. Just as they thought they would turn in a northerly direction (see the blue line on the map), the cloud turned south and led them through a narrow gorge in the mountains on the eastern edge of what is known as the Sinai Peninsula of today. The mixed multitude

immediately began to complain and blame Moses for not knowing where he was going.

“Instead of pursuing the direct route to Canaan, which lay through the country of the Philistines, the Lord directed their course southward, toward the shores of the Red Sea [or the Gulf of Aqaba, the eastern peninsula of the Red Sea]. ‘For God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt’ Exodus 13:17. Had they attempted to pass through Philistia, their progress would have been opposed; for the Philistines, regarding them as slaves escaping from their masters, would not have hesitated to make war upon them. The Israelites were poorly prepared for an encounter with that powerful and warlike people. They had little knowledge of God and little faith in Him, and they would have become terrified



**“Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, they are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in” Exodus 14:3.**



and disheartened. They were unarmed and unaccustomed to war, their spirits were depressed by long bondage, and they were encumbered with women and children, flocks and herds. In leading them by the way of the Red Sea, the Lord revealed Himself as a God of compassion as well as of judgment.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 282).

### **Nuweiba Beach**

Dr. Lennart Moller of Sweden researched all the theories and came to the same conclusion as Ron Wyatt, that a miracle happened at Nuweiba Beach in Sinai. The northern area of the Red Sea is the Gulf of Aqaba. The



slopes of the Sinai Desert Mountains along the Gulf of Aqaba are very steep. Anyone who has ever flown along the Sinai coastline can see from the plane windows that there is no suitable place for a camp of 2-3 million people, except on the shores of Nuweiba Beach where there is a very large and wide sandy beach.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea" Exodus 14:1, 2.

In Egypt the report was spread that the children of Israel, instead of tarrying to worship in the desert, were pressing on toward the Red Sea, (the eastern branch). Pharaoh's counselors declared to the king that



**Nuweiba Beach, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt: notice color along edge. This is melted sand where the cloud rested while Israel crossed.**

their bondmen had fled, never to return. The people deplored their folly in attributing the death of the first-born to the power of God. **Their great men, recovering from their fears, accounted for the plagues as the result of natural causes.** 'Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?' verse 5, was the bitter cry.

"Pharaoh collected his forces, 'six hundred chosen chariots, [plus] all the chariots of Egypt' verse 7, horsemen, captains, and foot soldiers. The king himself, attended by the great men of his realm, headed the attacking army. **To secure the favor of the gods, and thus ensure the success of their undertaking, the priests also accompanied them.** The king was resolved to intimidate the Israelites by a grand display of his power.

"The Hebrews were encamped beside the sea, whose waters presented a seemingly impassable barrier before them, while on the south a rugged mountain obstructed their further progress. Suddenly they beheld in the distance the flashing armor and moving chariots betokening the advance guard of a great army. As the force drew nearer, the hosts of Egypt were seen in full pursuit. Terror filled the hearts of Israel. Some cried unto the Lord, but [by] far the greater part hastened to Moses with their complaints" (Ibid. p 283-284).

"But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon" verse 9.

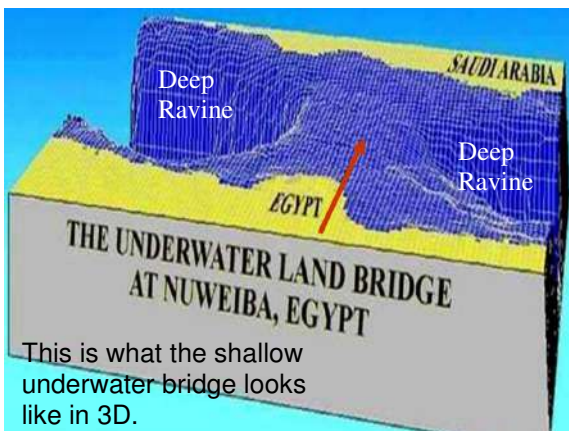
"And the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them ... and it was a cloud [of] darkness to them, but it gave light by night ... so that the one came not near the other all the night" Exodus 14:19-20.

Notice the discoloration along the shore of Nuweiba Beach. Those who have been there

say the sand is melted so it is like rough concrete. This is what God's cloud of fire did when it came between Israel and Pharaoh's army.

Ron Wyatt found pillars erected by Solomon on both the Arabian side and the Egyptian side which commemorated the crossing of Israel.

The average depth of the Gulf of Aqaba is 3,000





feet below sea level, with parts having a depth that exceeds 6,000 feet. However, in the depths of the Red Sea, only in front of Nuweiba Beach there is a natural land bridge, which peaks at a depth of 110 feet below sea level. The natural bridge is 10-11 miles long and about 2,000 feet wide and has a 5% slope on either side. It stretches underwater along the mainland of Nuweiba Beach to the shores

of Saudi Arabia. The sand surface is hard like concrete which enabled Israel and animals to pass without bogging down. Also the chariots traveled a partial distance without trouble. Here is how it looks on a topographical map. You can see the shallow crossing from Nuweiba Beach to Saudia Arabia. This land bridge shows how **God planned ahead** when the flood, which had covered the earth, subsided.

## The Crossing

“And 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 dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left” Exodus 14:21, 22.

The dividing of the Red Sea terrified the Canaanites but brought praise and triumph to Israel. God demonstrated His mighty power by opening a passage through the waters. It was a type of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1, 2), and Israel's journey through the sea was symbolic of their conversion. This lets us know that God is able to bring His people through the most difficult situations and bring solutions when we cannot. It was an example of His incredible favor to Israel. They walked on dry land in the midst of the sea! This was done to encourage God's people in future generations to trust Him even in the most dire circumstances. What can't God do if He's already shown what He is capable of? What will God not do for those who love and fear Him if He did this for murmuring, unbelieving Israel?

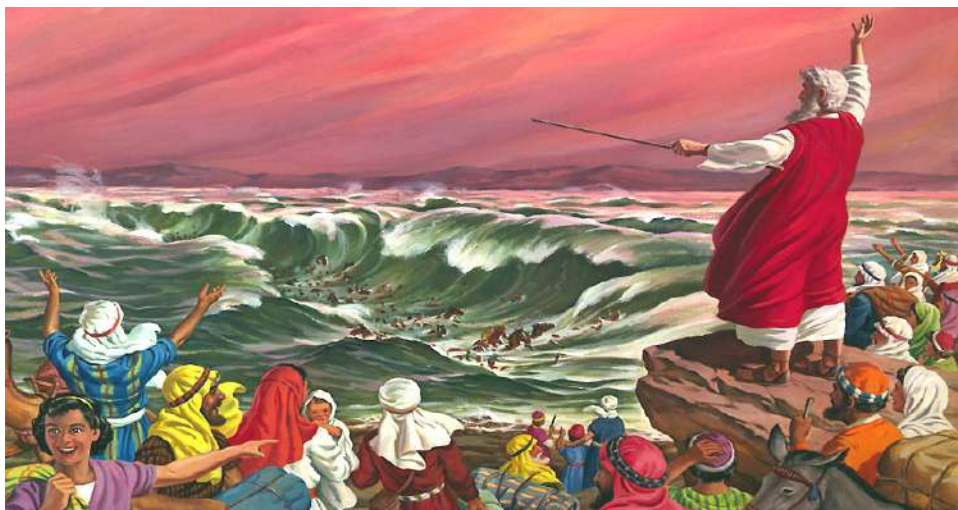
“And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And



it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, **and took off their chariot wheels**, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them ... Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses" Exodus 14:23-31.



Then came God's just and righteous wrath on Israel's enemies. When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the waters returned and overwhelmed all the Egyptian army. Pharaoh and his servants, who had hardened each other in sin, fell together, and no one escaped.



The Egyptians drowning in the sea typified **the ultimate fate of all unrepentant sinners**. The ruin of sinners is brought on by their own rage and arrogance. They had the option of leaving Israel alone, but did not. However, in the middle of the sea, they attempted to flee from Israel but were unable. Unfortunately, some will never learn until it is too late. Those who oppose God or His people do so at their own peril.

## Chariot Wheels at the Bottom of the Red Sea



In 1978 Ron Wyatt of Tennessee went scuba diving off of Nuweiba Beach. Since then several more Americans have gone as well as Dr. Lennart Moller of Sweden. They have discovered, at the bottom of the Gulf of Aqaba, right over the land bridge, chariot wheels. Divers have used metal de-

tectors and 2.5 km from shore and beyond they have found metal wheels covered by coral, wheel axles, and carriage cages. Among them, they discovered wheels made of gold, to which coral does not stick.

Ryan Mauro brought wheels to the director of antiquities in Egypt, who, at



first glance, stated they were from the 18th dynasty of the pharaohs.

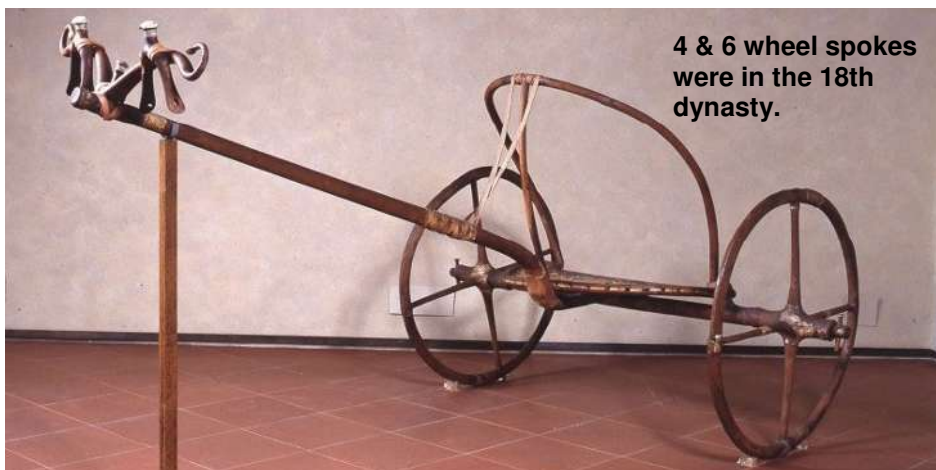
Ron Wyatt and Bill Fry came up with a more sophisticated metal detector, the "Excalibur 1000" type that can detect metals even at a depth of 200 feet or 61 meters inside the bottom of the sea. They found many more metal parts, including a carriage axle like those illustrated in the tombs of ancient Egypt.

This is what the axle with the wheels looked like when it was discovered. These ar-





archaeological discoveries have enormous historical and religious significance, much more so than their geographical location alone. **They prove that the Word of God is true**, which was Ron Wyatt's goal all along. Since 1977 Ron Wyatt searched for evidence that proved the Bible true. The Lord helped him make more than 100 discoveries but many in the world and in his church denied them and still do to this day. One excuse is that he was not an archeologist, which is very sad! But most all his findings have been confirmed by numerous others.





## Dr. Lennart Moller's Testimony



For more than forty years since Ron Wyatt's discovery, divers and explorers from three continents, each intrigued by clues linking the gulf of Aqaba and the Biblical Exodus, have come to Nuweiba Beach, seeking possible evidence of an Israelite crossing. Their search focused on the 600 chariots the Bible says were destroyed in the Red Sea.

Inscriptions, thousands of years old, and the few chariots recovered from ancient tombs, reveal much about the construction of these legendary vehicles of war. Could any of them actually be found on the sea floor off the Nuweiba Peninsula?

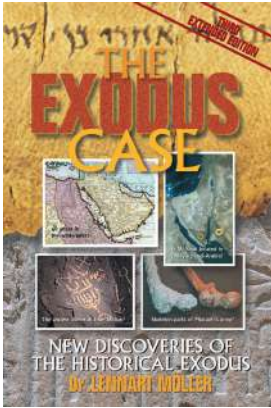
"The first time I came to Nuweiba," says Dr. Moller of Sweden, "the purpose was to verify, to document, and to establish hypothesis that this could be a link in the Exodus pathway." Based on his analysis of documentary evidence, Lennart Moller had long suspected the Aqaba coast as the probable location of the Red Sea crossing.

In 1997, he first heard reports from other divers, who claimed to have found unusual coral structures, some resembling the shapes of chariot wheels. Moller decided to investigate these claims for himself.

"The first time I was diving there, we were looking for possible artifacts. I had seen in pictures what we could look for. I was excited about that, but I was also skeptical, because three thousand five hundred years, that's a long time. But if Nuweiba is the crossing site, then of course you would expect to find remains of the Egyptian army."

Like others who had explored Nuweiba before him, Moller immediately recognized the difficulty of this search. "If we assume that a number of artifacts was spread out over this sea bed, sooner or later coral





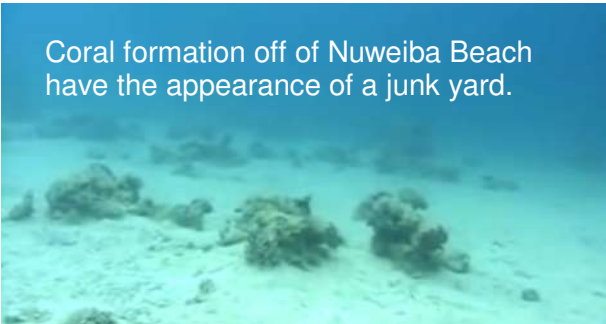
Dr. Moller wrote his findings in a book available from Amazon.

would start to grow on them. Then if you have a number of layers of coral growing on something, it's hard to distinguish the structure that was there from the very beginning." Though the coral complicates the search, it may have been instrumental in preserving the shapes of ancient artifacts. For coral is an organism that will not begin to grow on a foundation of sand or silt. Instead, it must first attach itself to a solid object, where it will sometimes conform to the shape of its host. "So for instance, if it would grow on a wooden artifact, the wood would normally disappear in the sea water after a time. But if you have coral growing on the wooden artifact, it would have the shape of the wooden artifact."

During the course of his explorations, Moller observed the pattern of coral growth on the land bridge differed from other parts of the gulf. Unlike the coral at the northern and southern ends of Aqaba, which often forms dense reefs, some covering many acres, the formations at Nuweiba Beach are generally smaller and scattered randomly across the sea floor. Divers familiar with the area have compared the distribution of coral in this area to be like a junk yard and the aftermath of a disaster. This description is fitting, and among the strange formations in these waters, many display features indicative of human engineering.

"When we dive and film at the Nuweiba location, we look for certain structures. We try to find 90° angles, or circular objects. We look for structures that resemble parts of a chariot, like an axle, a hub, a wheel, and we say, 'This is not a coral reef; this is a coral growth on an artifact.' That is what is different when I compare coral at other locations around the world."

Since the earliest explorations at Nuweiba, this type of formation has been distinctive to this area. It is very different from normal coral growth. While most of the possible artifacts found off the coast of Nuweiba are covered with coral, one significant discovery was not. "There is one find at the Nuweiba location that is of great interest, and that is the gilded wheel. It is basically the wooden structure of a wheel, covered with gold or electrum; a mixture of silver and gold. Coral has not been able to



Coral formation off of Nuweiba Beach have the appearance of a junk yard.

grow on it. It's very well preserved, although very fragile; it seems like the wooden content has been dissolved, so it could break if we tried to remove it." After its discovery, the fragile wheel-shaped veneer was photographed, then left in place on the sea floor. Later analysis revealed that its dimensions and design resembled the four-spoked chariot wheels painted on an 18th dynasty tomb wall near the biblical date of the Exodus.



### Robotic Survey

After reviewing photographic evidence and making several dives of his own, Moller concluded that a more systematic investigation of the Gulf of Aqaba sea floor on the Egyptian side was warranted. He realized that the limited diving time afforded by scuba equipment would

never allow an extensive search of the area. A higher level of technology was necessary, and in the spring of 2000, the Discovery Media team lowered a robotic camera into the water for the first time. "This had never been done. No one had been in the area at all with a remote-controlled camera," said Dr. Moller.

Controlled from the ship, the camera was maneuvered across the sea floor, transmitting video images for study and evaluation. "We had been down to 80 or 90 meters, but with the robotic camera we could go deeper and stay down as long as we liked."

As in previous searches Moller scrutinized the coral for specific shapes. "We can see that because it's a 90° angle, you





see some structures that are just a little above the surface of the seabed. They have a crosslike appearance, a 90° angle, and there's a hole in the middle. So this would be where the hub would go. And the rim of the wheel would be a circle with a spoke here and a spoke there. I wonder what the diameter of the rim would be? That's a good



question. We might expect it to be one meter, about 3 feet wide in diameter.”

The robotic camera's survey revealed many shapes and objects familiar to Moller, including coral formations with right angles, arches, discs, and straight shafts, fused into larger masses that had the appearance of twisted wreckage.

“Now, when we have been able to go back and forth with the remote control camera, we repeatedly see these strange structures—not in one place, but scattered all over the land bridge.” The abundance of these unusual coral structures was even more apparent when tapes of the expedition were carefully scrutinized during the months following the search at Nuweiba.

It is amazing to see so many coral objects in such large areas down deep in the water that are like manmade structures.



**Actual coral covered chariot wheel**



**Shape of wheel -- enhanced image**

Looking east from the Sinai Peninsula across the Gulf of Aqaba you can see the Midian Mountains in Saudi Arabia. This range includes Jabal al-Lawz, the location of the real Mt. Sinai according to Galatians 4:25 which says, "This Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia."



## Viveka Pontén's Testimony



While the robotic camera logged hours of video documentation, Viveka Pontén and other divers on a second research vessel used metal detectors to evaluate specific structures on the sea floor. Pontén and her colleagues realized the wheels of many Egyptian chariots were often reinforced with bronze. They hoped

to find evidence of the metal encrusted in coral. A scan of this formation indicated a circular metallic pattern around its edge, perhaps evidence of the broken rim of a chariot wheel. Other coral formations examined also contained fragments of metal.

Pontén's research was heightened by a discovery she had made three years earlier, **eight miles due east** of the Nuweiba peninsula.



**During her stay in Saudi Arabia**, Pontén not only searched for Mount Sinai, she also made several dives in an attempt to document evidence of the Egyptian army on the Saudi side of the Gulf.

“The Bible tells that Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore after they came across. So I figured there must be evidence on the Saudi side. At one spot there is a very shallow sort of land tongue going out at a straight angle toward Nuweiba. You tell the depth by the color of the waters. You can see how it was turquoise far out. So I thought this would be interesting for exploration. So we did some dives near that area.”

The scattered irregular coral formations on the Saudi side of Aqaba resemble those previously found off the Nuweiba Peninsula. In the midst of them, Pontén photographed this circular object, attached to what appears to have been a broken axle or hub. This discovery was significant for two reasons. Pontén had documented the coral



encrusted form of a wheel, with dimensions similar to ancient Egyptian artifacts, directly across from the proposed Nuweiba crossing site. Her find provided independent confirmation of earlier evidence, establishing wheel-like formations on both coasts of the Red Sea, in accordance with the Biblical record. “And the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army,

**and made the wheels of their chariots to come off” (Ex. 14:25 paraphrase).**



**HUMAN REMAINS**



Here’s a photo of a fragile human rib cage, and human femur, leg bone. Ron found a lot of human & animal bones

which he brought out as proof to show the Bible is true.





## Miscellaneous Conclusions



Dr. Moller said, "A common question is: 'Why didn't you bring out artifacts?' There are several answers to that. The best thing to do when you find something is just to leave it in position, document it, but leave it. It is very easy to destroy evidence. Also, it is now illegal to remove artifacts. A diver is no longer allowed to bring up any coral from the Red Sea." A sign on the Egyptian side says,

"It is strictly forbidden to touch or remove fish or coral. Violators will be prosecuted."

While Egyptian environmental laws prohibit the removal of coral for scientific dating and analysis, photographic evidence may provide a link to the time of the Exodus. Scholars have recognized photos which show the design of the chariot wheels. The photos of the wheel shapes can be used to identify specific periods in Egyptian history. In the waters of Aqaba, it appears there are remnants of four and six-spoked wheels. These designs were used simultaneously only during Egypt's 18th dynasty and no later than 1400 BC—a time-frame that coincides with the biblical date of the Exodus.



# The Great Rift Valley

The discoveries made between Nuweiba Beach and Saudi Arabia have been fascinating, but they also raise some obvious questions: If God parted these waters, how could a large group of people, including the elderly, the very young, and all the animals have walked across the Gulf of Aqaba in such a short span of time?

Since we know the Gulf is terribly deep, because there are very deep sections in the crust of the earth that goes through the Dead Sea in Palestine through the Gulf of Aqaba down through the main part of the Red sea and into Ethiopia called the Rift Valley. (See solid

and broken lines.) The imposing terrain of the great Rift Valley is evident in the towering mountains that line the Aqaba coast. They drop straight down into the sea, creating an underwater canyon more than a mile deep. A seemingly impassible divide, even if devoid of water.



## The Great Rift Valley

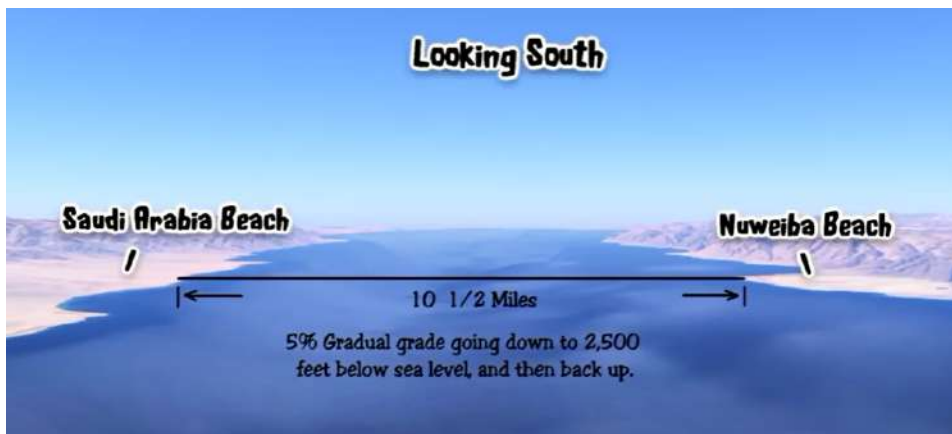




## Underwater Bridge

While surveying the subsurface topography of the Nuweiba crossing site, evidence was uncovered that could help explain how Israel walked from one coast to the other. At its deepest points, the Gulf of Aqaba plunges more than 5,500 feet. Yet the ocean floor of the coast of Nuweiba Beach rises several thousand feet from this trench, creating a wide, flattened ridge the Israelites could have crossed once the Red Sea was divided. Simulated to scale in this computer animation (see page 13), the view of the Gulf south of the Nuweiba peninsula is striking. A chasm, deeper than the Grand Canyon, extends more than 50 miles. Its steep shorelines stand in sharp contrast to the shallow grade of the gently sloping ridge that extends from Nuweiba Beach to Saudi Arabia. It is a ridge that resembles what the Old Testament prophet Isaiah once called "a path in the mighty waters" Isaiah 43:16.

The robotic camera was used to evaluate the physical characteristics of this undersea ridge for the first time. "It's just flat, extremely flat, and very wide." Moller also stated the material on the seabed is not mud, as in the Gulf of Suez and other places. "It's a thick layer of hard





sand; easy to walk on if you take away the water. There would be no limit to have an enormous amount of people walk there, except the water, of course, but that's not our problem; God took care of that."

"Thus says the Lord, who makes a way through the sea, and a path through the mighty waters: come and see the works of God; He turned the sea into dry land, and they passed through on foot" Psalm 66:5, 6.

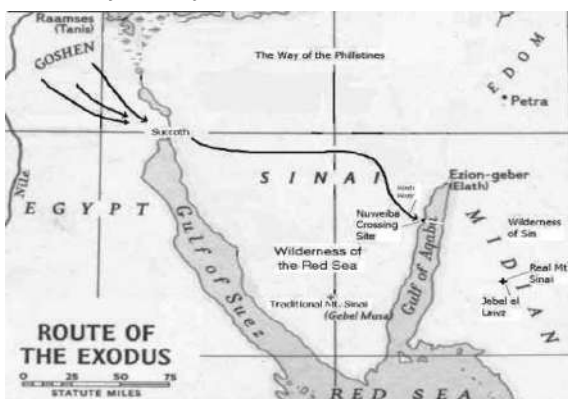
While the existence of an underwater ridge stretching from Nuweiba Beach to Saudi Arabia may make it easier to understand how the Israelites crossed the Aqaba Gulf, it does not explain the actual parting of these waters in the manner described by the writers of the Exodus account. "My understanding at Nuweiba is that if the water was removed, so they could cross, it is nothing that we can explain from a scientific point of view. Period."

The Bible says, "And 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 dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left" Exodus 14:21-22.

The Bible says two or three times that the waters were like a wall. There is no scientific explanation for something like that. Scholars generally assume that miracles are impossible, because they violate the laws of nature. As a result, any document based on a miraculous event must be historically unreliable. This reasoning, though widespread, is not without opposition. Miracles are acts of God and therefore entirely possible. Jesus said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" Luke 18:27.

## The Path to Mount Sinai

After more than a century of research, where does the body of available evidence for the Exodus now lead? Many archeologists have attempted to trace the path of Israel's journey to Mount Sinai. The routes they have most frequently proposed have yielded little or nothing in the way of actual confirmation. Yet today another theory for the Israelite's path, far different from traditional ideas, provides direct evidence for both a miracle and the historical validity of the Exodus account. Beginning in Northeastern Egypt, Egypt-



Looking west from the Arabian side of the Gulf of Aqaba to the Egyptian side.



tian records and archeological excavations, document the presence of a Hebrew slave population several centuries prior to the time of the Exodus. Evidence also shows the Hebrews later appeared in Canaan, the promised land, after centuries of bondage. Historical documents and archeological evidence locates the mountain of God in northwest Arabia, the site of biblical Midian (see Galatians 4:25).

We have a lot of evidence now, that builds a picture-like puzzle. We have artifacts, geography, locations, and surroundings, that fit the text very well. A good scientific theory explains a lot of evidence simply and coherently. There's a pattern that's coming out of all this evidence that shows the Biblical record has more historical content to it than what scholars have been willing to grant it in the past. And what we do with this evidence we now have, will determine how we relate to God in the final day.

But facts and faith need not conflict, as recent discoveries suggest. For history and archeology have now uncovered compelling reasons to reconsider the extraordinary claims of the Exodus story.



The story that follows is unrelated to the subject of this magazine, but is a beautiful story. Consider this: Joseph was thrown into prison when totally innocent, then became Prime Minister of Egypt. Moses was a Prince in Egypt from the age of 12 to 40. Then he killed an Egyptian taskmaster and had to flee for his life.

He escaped to Midian in Arabia and there herded sheep for 40 years. At the age of 80 God called him back to lead approximately 2.5 million people (Israel) out of Egypt to Canaan, the land promised to Abraham and his seed in Genesis 12:1-3 and 6-8. Now, see how God blessed to save more of His children in our generation.

# The Prison Chaplain

By Dick Duerksen

I couldn't read or write, so they threw me out of the second grade. A new teacher divided the class into sections. She started me out in the "advanced" section, but quickly moved me to a corner of the room and sat me all alone, forgotten, all by myself.

Those are the words of Air Force Sergeant Terry Johnson, who today is a successful minister, teacher, radio host, chaplain and spiritual leader. Terry is a second-grade failure whose life has been a hard trail of tragedies, failure and victories in Jesus. One of his good friends says, "Terry knows about salvation personally, and is a man God uses to share the good news of grace to the powerful and the weak. Get close to Terry, and he'll show you that God loves you personally and is eager to perform miracles in your life."

As an Air Force sergeant, I served in the president's honor guard for three United States presidents," Terry says. "Each of them knew I loved God."

Terry stumbled through elementary and secondary school and then into the Air Force, where he finally understood the disabilities that had kept him from learning. Determined to help others who faced similar challenges, he began taking speaking appointments during which time he could encourage young people to succeed. On one of those appointments a friend asked him to speak at a local prison, the Oregon State Penitentiary in Portland, Oregon.

"A lot of these guys end up in prison because no one helped them conquer their learning disabilities," the friend told Terry. "They just got discouraged, got into trouble and ended up here. Come talk to them."

Terry agreed, especially since Portland was his home, the city where he had been thrown out of second grade.

"When I got to the prison, Terry described the day, "they took me into the assembly area and told me they had decided to bring all of the





prisoners together. The officer told me that the prison was full of gang members who hated each other, so they were adding guards for the event. Then the officer gave me the rules: you stand up and speak when we tell you. You quit when you're done. You stay on the platform. You do not come down to the prisoners. You do not pray, and you do not make a call for commitment or change. Just speak and leave. That will be all."

"OK," Terry answered.

The room quickly filled with hundreds of prisoners.

"When everyone was sitting down, three guards brought in one last prisoner - the worst case in the penitentiary. His legs were chained together, and another chain ran from his legs to his neck so that he could hardly move. They sat him in the very back far from all the others, and guards stood around him, guns ready."

Terry poured his soul out to the guys. He started with second grade and described his life of failures, trouble with the school, trouble with the law and trouble with himself. He also told about the constant love and prayers of his mother.

"It finally hit me," Terry told the crowd, "that God loved me even when I was bad, and that He was always right there to help me live like I was His own son."

They listened. Rugged prisoners with tears flowing freely as they relived their lives through Terry's story. At the end Terry heard God telling him to pray for the guys, even for the guy in chains in the back. He didn't ask permission. He just raised his hands and reminded the men how his mother had prayed for him every moment of his entire life.

"Most of you have a mother, a father, aunt, uncle, or someone else who loves you and has been praying for you the way my mother



prayed for me," Terry said. "Now if you'd like me to pray for you, please stand right where you are and raise your hands high like this. Is that OK with you?"

The room was quickly filled with men who were standing, weeping, and raising their hands, begging for

Terry to pray for them. Even guards stood, arms raised high to God.

"I prayed," says Terry. "Oh, how I prayed! I used words I knew their mothers used when praying for them. We cried together."

As he prayed, Terry stepped off the platform and began walking back through the crowd toward the man in the chains at the back of the hall; toward the prisoner who had tried to stand, only to be shoved back down by armed guards; toward the weeping man who was struggling to raise his shackled arms to God.

Terry cannot tell this part of the story without pausing, his own eyes filling with tears. "The prisoners were crowding around me and thanking me as I walked through them toward the back. When I got to the prisoner in chains I asked everyone to stand aside and let me talk to the man. I crouched down, and he leaned into me, getting right into my face.

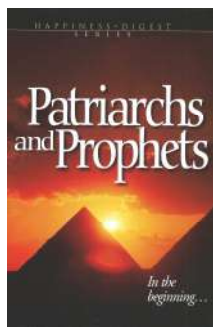
"You don't remember me, do you?" the prisoner asked. " But I remember you. Twenty years ago, back there in second grade, before you were sent to the chair in the corner, I was the boy who sat next to you in the third row. You listened to your mother's prayers, and let Jesus pull you out. I didn't listen. By the time I was 15, I had been arrested 17 times. At 18 I started living on the streets, where I was known as the human calculator, because I could keep track of all the drug deals in my head. They finally caught me, and now I'll never get out. Terry, can Jesus love me here?"

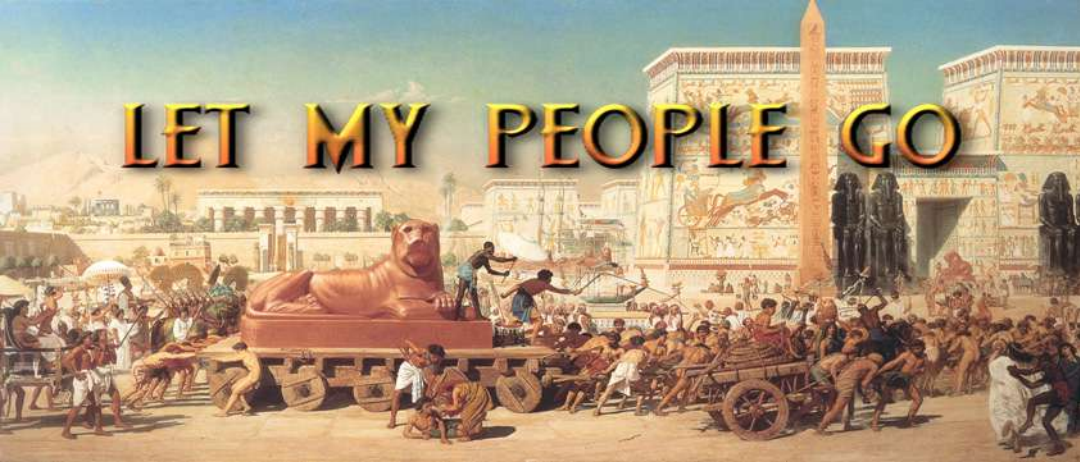
The room filled with cheers as Terry shouted, "YES! He already does!"

Randy, the prisoner in chains, was baptized a few months later. Though he is still serving out his 60-year sentence, he is now called **the prison chaplain**, for the way he shares his new life in Christ.

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GOD IS LOVE. Every manifestation of His creative power is an expression of infinite love. The history of the great conflict between good and evil, and God's plan to resolve it demonstrates His unchanging love. ***Patriarchs and Prophets*** tells the early part of this ancient and true love story. Covering the sweeping panorama of history from the creation of earth to the reign of Israel's King David, this eye-opening book reveals how this conflict was fought in the lives of men and women during Old Testament times. In addition to answering the great questions, "Where did we come from?" and "Where are we going?" this classic work reveals the wonderful plans and purposes of God to devise a way of salvation for all who choose it. Here you find greater detail on the life of Joseph and how he became the second highest ruler in Egypt. Learn the details about the ten plagues that came to Egypt and about Moses having to flee and then his return to lead his people out. A \$10 donation covers our cost. Free to inmates.





1. When Israel was in Egypt's land,  
Let My people go!  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
Let My people go!

Refrain:  
Go down, Moses,  
Way down in Egypt's land;  
Tell old Pharaoh  
To let My people go!

2. No more shall they in bondage toil,  
Let My people go!  
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil,  
Let My people go!

3. Oh, let us all from bondage flee,  
Let My people go!  
And let us all in Christ be free,  
Let My people go!

4. You need not always weep and mourn,  
Let My people go!  
And wear these slav'ry chains forlorn,  
Let My people go!

5. Your foes shall not before you stand,  
Let My people go!  
And you'll possess fair Canaan's land,  
Let My people go!