

## **The Crossing of the Red Sea**

**AIM:** to teach my pupils the miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea

**POINT OF CONTACT:** It is very interesting to have the class list some things in the Bible, awarding prizes to those who do the best job. For this lesson have the class write as many Old Testament miracles as they can think of. The one who writes the most gets some little prize. Perhaps you could see if any pupil can name all the plagues of Egypt (miracles of Egypt) which we studied in last week's lesson.

**INTRODUCTION:** The plagues are now ended. Pharaoh has agreed to let the Israelites go. They leave and start toward the Land of Promise only to find the Red Sea in their pathway. God led them across the Red Sea miraculously, and this story is certainly worthy of our consideration.

### **I. THEIR SALVATION WAS BY THE BLOOD.**

It is very interesting that many of the plagues were hideous indeed—the lice, the flies, the frogs and others were plagues that would certainly seem to pry the hand of Pharaoh from around the children of Israel and to cause him to free them from bondage. However, Pharaoh did not let them go in spite of these plagues. It was the blood applied on the doorposts on Passover night which caused deliverance. This is a beautiful picture that salvation cannot come by the efforts of men nor by any means other than the sacrificial blood of an innocent lamb. Jesus is our Passover, The Israelites could not be delivered until the blood was applied; we cannot be saved until the blood is applied.

### **II. AFTER SALVATION CAME THE RED SEA.**

This is a very interesting thing. Water always seems to follow salvation. It is not a part of salvation, but it seems to follow it. In the preceding point, we mentioned the Passover lamb. This is the way a person is saved—by faith in the sacrificial Lamb. There must be a lamb. It had to be without blemish, it had to be slain, the blood had to be applied, etc. Though salvation comes by faith in this Lamb, obedience leads us to the water. (Teacher, show the importance of baptism here. Lead those who have not been baptized to obey the Lord in believer's baptism. Show them that being saved is not all that we ought to be concerned about. We should also be concerned about being obedient to the Lord. The first step of obedience, of course, is baptism.)

### **III. GOD LED THE ISRAELITES.**

Read Exodus 13:21, 22. As soon as the Israelites were delivered, God promised to lead them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This represents God's presence with His people immediately upon salvation. When a person is saved, the Holy Spirit comes in him to live. See Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19, 20. (Teacher, teach the class a few minutes about the Holy Spirit. Explain to them that the minute we are saved a Person comes in to live. He leads us, teaches us, guides us, comforts us, helps us, strengthens us, etc. Alert the class to the fact that He is a real person. Tell them that He is likened in the Bible to a baby sitter. Jesus has gone away; He has left us in the hands of the Holy Spirit until He returns.

### **VI. THE ISRAELITES WERE SAVED. BUT THEY WERE NOT THROUGH WITH PHARAOH OR THE EGYPTIAN ARMIES.**

Study Exodus 14:5-8. Yes, they are now delivered. Yes, they are now being led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, but this does not mean they are through with the enemy. Just because a person is saved does not mean he is through with the enemy. The Egyptian army repented, Pharaoh repented, and they decided to pursue the Israelites. Just because a person is saved does not mean he is through with the Devil, his angels, his imps or his helpers. Don't ever get to the place that you think you are too far gone to be attacked from the rear by Satan and his temptations. As soon as a person is saved, his soul is saved. He is going to Heaven; that is settled, but the Devil hounds his heels for his life. That little "Egyptian" that hounded you before you were saved will hound you after you are saved. That little temptation, that weakness—watch out for it!

## **V. THE WAY THEY WON THE VICTORY WAS TO FOLLOW THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND PILLAR OF FIRE AND TO GO FORWARD.**

See Exodus 14:14-15. Think of their predicament! On one side was the Red Sea and on the other side was Pharaoh. What a place in which to be! Moses came to God and asked for His help. God's answer was, "Go forward!" This is always the answer. Never go back to the old life; never go back to the old ways; never go back to the old habits. Keep going forward. Even if the Red Sea is there, it is better to drown doing right than to stay alive and go back doing wrong. They went forward. Keep going on! (Teacher, talk to the class for a while about growing in grace. Explain to them that being a backslider is being anything less than what you once were. You could be the best Christian in the church and still be a backslider if you are less than you used to be. Stress to the class the importance of going forward, always being a better Bible student, praying more, witnessing more, loving more, serving more, doing more for God. The success of the Israelites was to go forward. Success in God's work is to go forward.)

## **VI. GOD WILL OPEN THE WAY FOR THOSE WHO KEEP GOING, WHO KEEP ON FOLLOWING THE PILLAR OF CLOUD.**

Read Exodus 14:19-22. We may get waist deep in water, but God will open the sea. To those who go forward, to those who do not look back, to those who keep progressing, God offers miraculous things, and He will open the way. You say, "I can't see the way open." You don't have to see the way open. He Who sits in the tower sees the way. All we do is keep following Him, doing His will, and going forward.

## **VII. THEN CAME THE UTTER DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY.**

Notice Exodus 14:26-28. God promises that nothing will prosper that lifts its hand against His people. Keep going forward, keep obeying God, keep going to the Promised Land; and thanks be to God, our enemies will be defeated. It may seem for a while that they are flourishing. The armies of Pharaoh had the upper hand as they pursued the Israelites. It looked like definite defeat and imminent defeat was theirs. However, God said, "Go forward." They did. The Red Sea was opened; they crossed on dry ground. The Egyptians pursued; they were destroyed in the Red Sea. Thank God for His protection of us and for His deliverance of us from our enemies if we keep in His will and keep going forward.

## **VIII. JOY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED.**

It is interesting that the two words that are mentioned immediately upon their deliverance in Exodus 15:1 are "Then sang." That's the time to sing. Joy comes to God's people who walk with God, follow Him and keep going forward. Read at your own convenience the first 21 verses of Exodus 15, and you will see wonderful joy. People who are unhappy Christians are those who have not gone forward for God and have not seen God "part the waters." Those who have seen God open the way, clear the path, and defeat the enemy have occasion to be joyous.

## **IX. IMMEDIATELY THE BITTER WAS MADE SWEET.**

See Exodus 15:23-25. This is a wonderful story. They came to bitter waters. God said to cast the tree into the bitter waters, and the waters were made sweet. Life is filled with bitter waters. On the journey to the promised land, we have bitter things to swallow. Just because we are Christians and on our way to the promised land does not mean all things will be easy. The journey to the promised land includes the wilderness. It includes persecution, heartache, hunger, thirst, etc. Bitter times will come. Notice God said to throw a tree in the water, and the water became sweet. This represents the cross of Calvary. Any time the cross is thrown in the bitter part of our lives, the bitterness becomes sweet. The hard days become the most precious days because they become days of fellowship with Christ. Looking back on our lives we find that that which was bitter actually left a sweet taste in our mouths. It is bitter for a while, but when the cross is thrown in the path, it leaves a sweetness in our mouths. The greatest days of our lives are often those times when we go through deep waters and taste bitter pills.