

God Establishes His People

Date: 08.09.2026 | Yahweh Parts the Red Sea
Scripture: Exodus 13-14

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God leads His people and keeps them safe.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God led His people through the Red Sea and rescued them from danger.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

When God's people were trapped, He made a way through the Red Sea and showed His power to save them.

STUDENTS:

God faithfully guided Israel and delivered them through the Red Sea, demonstrating that He alone has the power to save His people and defeat their enemies.

ADULTS:

God reveals His covenant faithfulness and sovereign power by leading, protecting, and delivering His people from slavery. What seemed impossible became the means of salvation, calling God's people to trust Him when no human solution exists and to worship Him as their Redeemer.

MEMORY VERSE

Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring to you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13-14



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What is a miracle? God's work in the world is not all of one kind. Miracles require immediate, supernatural intervention. They do not operate according to the natural order of things that God has given creation. Miracles are also intimately connected to God's plan of redemption and are concentrated in pivotal moments of salvation history, such as the exodus from Egypt. DeYoung p.97

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

When Joseph and his family first arrived in Egypt, there were only seventy people in all (***Genesis 46:27; Exodus 1:5***). Over the course of hundreds of years, however, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by multiplying His people into a great nation (***Genesis 12:2; Exodus 1:7***). By the time Yahweh delivered them from slavery in Egypt, “about six hundred thousand men, besides women and children” departed from the land (***Exodus 12:37***).



Through the Exodus, Israel came to understand that Yahweh was fulfilling the covenant promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had declared, “I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God” (***Exodus 6:6-7***). Yahweh proved Himself to be the covenant-keeping God who rescues His people and faithfully accomplishes all that He promises (***Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 2:24-25***). The generation that experienced the Exodus was learning to know Yahweh not only by name, but through His mighty acts of salvation and deliverance.

After the Exodus, the Lord instructed Moses concerning how His people were to live as a nation set apart for Him. God commanded the Israelites to consecrate every firstborn male as a reminder that He had spared Israel's firstborn during the final plague in Egypt. He also established the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a seven-day celebration designed to help the people remember how the Lord had brought them out of slavery “by a strong hand.” This remembrance was not intended to be mere mental recall; it was meant to be an ongoing participation in the story of God's redemption. Parents were to teach their children about Yahweh's mighty works so that future generations would know and worship the God who had rescued His people (***Exodus 12:14-20; 13:1-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9***). In many

ways, Israel's very existence as a nation was made possible through this great act of deliverance.

As the Israelites journeyed out of Egypt, God gave them a continual visible reminder of His presence and guidance. He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, and these signs of His presence never departed from the people (*Exodus 13:21-22*).

The Lord then instructed Israel to camp beside the Red Sea in a place that appeared dangerous and trapped. God knew Pharaoh would assume that the Israelites were wandering helplessly in the wilderness with nowhere to escape. Yet the Lord intentionally led His people there to display His glory and power over Egypt once again. Pharaoh soon regretted allowing the Israelites to leave and losing their labor force, so he gathered his army—horses, chariots, horsemen, and troops—and pursued the Israelites, overtaking them as they camped beside the sea (*Exodus 14:1-9*).

When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army approaching, they became terrified. They cried out to God and complained to Moses, saying it would have been better to remain slaves in Egypt than to die in the wilderness. Fear caused them to forget the mighty works God had already performed on their behalf. Moses, however, urged the people not to fear. He reminded them that the Lord Himself would fight for them and that they only needed to stand firm and watch the salvation He would provide. Moses assured the Israelites that they would never see the Egyptians again (*Exodus 14:10-14*).

God then instructed Moses to stretch out his staff over the sea so the waters would divide and the Israelites could move forward. The Lord declared that Israel would pass through the sea on dry ground while the Egyptian army followed after them. During the night, the angel of God and the pillar of cloud moved behind the camp of Israel and stood between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The cloud brought darkness to the Egyptians while giving light to Israel, preventing either side from approaching the other throughout the night. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord sent a powerful wind that drove the waters back and divided the sea. The Israelites then walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground with walls of water standing on both sides of them (*Exodus 14:15-22*).

The Egyptians pursued the Israelites into the sea, but the Lord threw the Egyptian army into confusion and caused the wheels of their chariots to fail, making it difficult for them to drive. The Egyptians

realized too late that Yahweh Himself was fighting for Israel. After every Israelite had safely crossed to the other side, God instructed Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea once more. At daybreak, the waters returned to their place and swallowed Pharaoh's army, destroying the mightiest military force on earth. Not one Egyptian soldier survived. When the Israelites witnessed the Lord's great power and deliverance, they feared the Lord, trusted Him, and believed in Moses, His servant (*Exodus 14:23-31*).

The deliverance from Egypt became permanently imprinted on the memory and identity of God's people. The Exodus stood at the center of Israel's worship, songs, festivals, and understanding of God's redeeming love. Israel continually reflected on this astonishing act of salvation through stories, worship, and songs, including *Exodus 15:1-18* and *Psalms 105:23-45*. The Exodus became the defining picture of God's power to rescue and redeem His people.

The New Testament teaches that the Exodus was not merely a historical event, but also a foreshadowing of the greater redemption accomplished through Jesus Christ. Just as God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt through the blood of the Passover lamb and His mighty power, Jesus delivers sinners from slavery to sin through His death and resurrection (*Luke 9:31; 1 Corinthians 5:7*). Through Christ's atoning work, believers are rescued, forgiven, and brought into the family of God (*Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 9:11-14*).

TELL THE STORY

Exodus 13 - 14

The Biggest Story Storybook Bible - Free at Last
Hey Oh! Stories of the Bible - Moses and the Red Sea
The Jesus Storybook Bible - God Makes a Way

When Pharaoh let the Israelites go, the Lord led them out of Egypt. He went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night. The pillar stayed right in front of the people so they knew exactly where God wanted them to go.

God led them away from the Philistines because He knew the people were not yet ready for war. They were traveling past the edge of the Red Sea when the Lord spoke to Moses: "Turn back and camp in



front of the sea. Pharaoh will think you are confused and trapped, so that he will pursue you. Then I will receive glory when people see what I do to Pharaoh and his army.”

Just as God said, Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. He gathered his chariots, his horsemen, and all his army, and chased after them. While the Israelites were camped at the shore of the Red Sea, they looked up and saw the Egyptian army coming after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord for help. Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the Lord’s salvation. The Lord will fight for you.”

The pillar of cloud moved between God’s people and the Egyptians so that the two groups could not come near one another. Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and a strong wind blew all night, turning the sea into dry land. The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on their right and a wall of water on their left.

The Egyptians tried to follow them, but the Lord confused them. He also made their chariot wheels hard to control. They said, “Let’s get away from Israel- the Lord is fighting for them!”

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea, and the water crashed down on the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh’s army. None of the Egyptian army survived. When Israel saw the great power of the Lord that had saved them, they believed in Him and in His servant Moses.

Then Moses and all of the Israelites sang a song to the Lord:

*“The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
This is my God, and I will praise him.”*

The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made the way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again.

REBUILD THE STORY



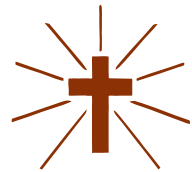
1. After God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, where did He lead them to camp, and why did He lead them there?
(Exodus 13:17-18; 14:1-4)
2. What visible signs did God give His people to show that He was with them and leading them? *(Exodus 13:21-22)*
3. How did Pharaoh respond after the Israelites left Egypt, and what did he decide to do? *(Exodus 14:5-9)*
4. How did the Israelites react when they saw the Egyptian army approaching them at the Red Sea? *(Exodus 14:10-12)*
5. What did Moses tell the Israelites to do instead of being afraid?
(Exodus 14:13-14)
6. How did God protect the Israelites before they crossed through the sea? *(Exodus 14:19-20)*
7. What happened when Moses stretched out his hand over the Red Sea? *(Exodus 14:21-22)*
8. What happened to the Egyptian army, and how did the Israelites respond after God saved them? *(Exodus 14:23-31)*
9. The Israelites forgot God's past faithfulness when they became afraid. Why do you think people often forget what God has already done when new problems arise?
10. Moses told the people to "stand firm" and trust the Lord. What does trusting God look like when we face fear, uncertainty, or situations we cannot control?

11. God led the Israelites to a place that seemed impossible and dangerous before He rescued them. Why do you think God sometimes allows His people to face difficult situations before showing His power?

12. The Exodus points forward to Jesus rescuing people from sin. In what ways is crossing the Red Sea similar to the salvation believers receive through Christ?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Yahweh rescued His people not only from slavery in Egypt, but also from the power of Pharaoh and his army as they crossed safely through the Red Sea. Israel could not save itself—they were trapped between the sea and the strongest army on earth—but God made a way of deliverance where there seemed to be no way. By His mighty power, Yahweh fought for His people, defeated their enemy, and brought them safely through the waters into freedom. The Exodus became the defining picture of God as the Deliverer who rescues His people from bondage and keeps His covenant promises.



This great rescue points forward to an even greater deliverance accomplished through Jesus Christ. Just as Israel was enslaved in Egypt and unable to free themselves, all people are enslaved to sin and separated from God because of sin (*Romans 3:23*). Just as God rescued Israel through the blood of the Passover lamb and His mighty power at the Red Sea, God rescues sinners through the blood and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb (*1 Corinthians 5:7*). Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, died on the cross in our place, and rose again so that all who trust in Him can be forgiven, rescued from sin and death, and brought into God's family forever (*Colossians 1:13-14*). The Red Sea reminds us that God alone can save, and through Christ, He provides the ultimate and eternal deliverance for His people.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true change the way we live in Christ?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Yahweh, thank You for protecting and providing for Your people! Thank You for being the God of Deliverance and making a way through the wilderness when the circumstances seemed impossible. Thank You for being sovereign over all things- especially in Your eternal plans for Your people. Help us remember that our circumstances are an opportunity to showcase Your glory and power!



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Exodus 15-18