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Teaching Notes

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A Timeless Display of God's Immense Power to Save

Exodus 14

I. The Most Celebrated Event of the Old Testament

A. God Established a Testimony and Made a Name for Himself

Daniel 9:15 "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.

B. From this moment on, this would be the point of reference for Israel

1. Later in the Exodus... right before they entered the Promised Land

Deuteronomy 11:2-4 Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; 3 the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; 4 what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them.

2. When God recalled His history with the people at the end of Joshua's life (covenant re-established)

Joshua 24:6-7 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea. 7 But they cried to the LORD for help, and he put darkness between you and the Egyptians; he brought the sea over them and covered them. You saw with your own eyes what I did to the Egyptians. Then you lived in the desert for a long time.

3. In the Psalms

Psalms 66:5-7 Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! 6 He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot-- come, let us rejoice in him. 7 He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations-- let not the rebellious rise up against him.

Psalm 77:14-20 *You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. 15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah 16 The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. 17 The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. 18 Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. 19 Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. 20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

Psalm 78:12-13 *He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. 13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.*

As in many cases this Psalm contrasts God's power and faithfulness with Israel's faithlessness and rebellion

History is cited to show who God is, and to show how wicked and sinful Israel has been

Psalm 106:9-12 *He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. 10 He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. 11 The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. 12 Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.*

13-22 *But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. 14 In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test. 15 So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them. 16 In the camp they grew envious of Moses and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD. 17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it buried the company of Abiram. 18 Fire blazed among their followers; a flame consumed the wicked. 19 At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. 20 They exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. 21 They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, 22 miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.*

Psalm 136:13-15 *to him who divided the Red Sea asunder His love endures forever. 14 and brought Israel through the midst of it, His love endures forever. 15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; His love endures forever.*

4. In the Prophets

Isaiah 43:16-17 *This is what the LORD says-- he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, 17 who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick*

5. By Daniel in the Exile (as we saw above)

6. By Nehemiah

Nehemiah 9:9-11 *"You saw the suffering of our forefathers in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea. 10 You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the*

people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. 11 You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters.

7. In the New Testament, by Stephen and in Hebrews

Acts 7:36 He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert.

Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

C. This Became Part of Israel's Manner of Speaking: God Led Us Through the Waters

1. So therefore don't be afraid now

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

2. God led us in the past... why has He forsaken us now??

Isaiah 63:11-15 Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, 12 who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, 13 who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; 14 like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name. 15 Look down from heaven and see from your lofty throne, holy and glorious. Where are your zeal and your might? Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us.

3. The future restoration of Israel likened to the past even of the Red Sea

Isaiah 43:16-19 This is what the LORD says-- he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, 17 who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick. 18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Zechariah 10:9-12 Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive, and they will return. 10 I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them. 11 They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria's pride will be brought down and Egypt's scepter will

pass away. 12 I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will walk," declares the LORD.

D. Making a Glorious Name for Himself... so that Lost Sinners will Call on the Name of the Lord

1. He says it three times in this chapter

Exodus 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

Exodus 14:17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.

Exodus 14:18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Joshua 4:23-24 For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."

2. The result: Rahab's salvation

Joshua 2:10-13 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

Romans 10:13-14 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

God creates a history, and makes a great reputation for Himself that lost sinners like Rahab, and you and me, can call on that mighty name and be saved. Without this name, this reputation, this history of great deeds, we would say (with Pharaoh):

Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

II. God's Strange Strategy: Poor Generalship (vs. 1-4)

Exodus 14:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

- God purposely commits a tactical “error” which a good general would never have committed
- He pinned His people against the sea and the desert with seemingly no escape
- Similar to his reasoning in having Gideon pare down his army, which God says is too large for Him to get the glory

Pink: Thus Israel were so placed that there was no human way of escape. In the mountain fortresses they might have had a chance; but surrounded by the wilderness, it was useless to flee before the cavalry and chariots of Egypt.

- The name “Pi-Hahiroth” has an uncertain meaning, and no one is certain where it is... Ron Wyatt believes its on the Gulf of Aqabah
- God is setting Pharaoh up for the final humiliation
- Amazing how God knows what Pharaoh will think! God tells Moses exactly what His plan is so that Moses will lead Israel with confidence

John 14:29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

- Note that God will harden Pharaoh's heart... again, the sovereignty of God over human decisions. God will not let Pharaoh come to any other conclusion than God wills
- Note finally that God does all this for His own glory... His goal in hardening Pharaoh's heart and destroying his army is that He may be glorified. God's glory is the highest priority in the universe... higher than human well-being or happiness, higher even than human salvation

III. Pharaoh's Strange Decision: Forgetting the Lord (vs. 5-8)

vs. 5-8 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

- Even more amazing than God's strategy is Pharaoh's attitude
- Remember God already told us what Pharaoh would think in verse 3:

vs. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'

Pink: "How this brings out the inveteracy of unbelief! How it demonstrates the folly of human reasoning! Granting that Israel were 'entangled in the land' and 'shut in by the wilderness', that they were trapped by the Red Sea, did Pharaoh suppose they would fall easy victims before his onslaught? What about Israel's God? Had He not already shown Himself mighty on their behalf?"

- It is common for unbelievers to forget about God in specific situations... they never think about Him at all any way!!

Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Psalm 10:4 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

- God had planned one more humiliation for the arrogant Egyptians... the land was totally devastated by the ten plagues, but Pharaoh's army, the most powerful on earth was untouched
- Six hundred chariots went out, along with the rest of the forces... an awesome force

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Important for American Christians not to get sucked into this kind of thinking about America's military capabilities... grandiose statements about the awesome firepower of an aircraft carrier task force, or of stealth fighters and bombers, or of hi-tech smart bombs, or of reactive armor or depleted uranium bullets, or of unmanned superintelligent drones, or of laser-guided missiles, or of satellite-based anti-missile defences... can lead to arrogance and an ultimate trust in our modern "chariots" rather than in God alone

America is particularly susceptible to this faulty thinking: "Lone superpower"

Simple lesson: if God is for you, who care who's against you; but if God is against you, it doesn't matter how powerful your army is... you will be destroyed.

- Pharaoh is trusting in his chariots... but also in his intelligence reports of Israel's foolishness
- Yet for all of Pharaoh's logic, the clear indication of the text was that Pharaoh marched out to destroy Israel primarily because God wanted him to!!

vs. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

- Israel went out of Egypt “boldly” : literally, with an uplifted hand... perhaps their confidence was particularly irksome to Pharaoh
- Pharaoh AND HIS ADVISORS all changed their minds!! They began to regret losing the work of these Hebrew slaves and decided to pursue them

IV. The Faithless Terror of the Israelites (vs. 9-12)

vs. 9-12 The Egyptians-- all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops-- pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. 10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

- Third amazing feature: Israel’s instant faithlessness in the face of the impending doom... they had forgotten God every bit as much as Pharaoh had!!
- Israel had little faith... most in Israel had NO FAITH at all
- They cried out to the Lord... but their prayer was a faithless one, more of a complaint against God than a supplication to God
- The faithlessness of Israel will be abundantly displayed in the ensuing history... complaining about lack of water, the Golden Calf worship, the rebellion at the ten spies report, the complaining for meat
- Note the irony of their statement... they are very sarcastic when they spoke about the “lack of graves in Egypt”... the Egyptians specialized in graves!!
- This is also a prime example of “looking backward”

Luke 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife!

- It would not be the last time they would look backward fondly to their live of slavery!!

Numbers 11:4-6 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost-- also the

cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

V. Moses' Faith-filled Response: (vs. 13-14)

vs. 13-14 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

- Moses himself had his moments of doubt and fear, and cried out to the Lord from that

vs. 15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?"

- But Moses had a strong faith in God, and also had inside information from Him
- He was told by God what Pharaoh would think, and what God's plan was
- He was also instructed by God what to do
- Therefore Moses stood courageously and led the people out of their fear
- Moses' command is clear: Stand firm and watch... literally do nothing!!
- Consistent instruction in Christian faith: stand firm and watch what God will do
- Moses also reassures the Israelites: You will never see these Egyptians again... they are the ones in danger right now, not you!
- Salvation is from the Lord... He fights and He wins!!
- Just as Pharaoh's chariots were impotent against God's power, so is Israel's power impotent against Pharaoh... God is fighting against Israel's true enemy: not Pharaoh, but arrogant self-reliance

2 Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

- Application #1: God will lead you into situations in which you are way over your head, in which you are desperate and feel yourself to be without recourse, to teach you to stop relying on yourself

- Application #2: God will never lead you where He grace and power cannot sustain you! Why? Because there is no such place in the universe!! If God has led you somewhere, it is to His honor to be sure you are not forsaken

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

The way of escape is through the Red Sea... and even though it seems there can be no escape, yet God can make a way

VI. God's Command: Move On Into the Sea (vs. 15-18)

vs. 15-18 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

- God next commands Israel to move on... to enter the sea and keep making progress to Mount Sinai, where God had told Moses he would meet with Israel
- There is a time for prayer, and then there is the time for action... Moses has cried out to the Lord enough, now it is time for Israel to move and for Moses to stretch out his staff over the sea
- Interesting that God uses Moses' staff again... God works through human agents, human leaders, so the people can follow them
- The staff is a symbol of Moses' authority and of God's use of ordinary means to accomplish supernatural things
- God clearly spells out that He will divide the waters of the sea so that Israel can pass through on dry ground
- He also tells Moses that He will further harden Pharaoh's heart to make the soldiers go in after them...
- This is the culmination of God's glory... when Pharaoh's mighty army is destroyed

VI. The Lord Protects Israel (vs. 19-20)

vs. 19-20 *Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.*

- Visible display of God's protection of His people
- There were at least 2 million people to cross the Red Sea... God had to keep Egypt away from the rear of Israel's column or they would be chewed the shreds by the mighty Egyptian chariots and horsemen
- The crossing of the Red Sea would take Israel all night, and God was Israel's rear guard:

Isaiah 52:12 *But you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*

Isaiah 58:8 *Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

- God made a sovereign distinction between Egypt and Israel... to the one, He was a source of darkness (meaning judgment) to the other a source of light
- This is also a visible display of how actively God protects His people from trials too difficult for them

[Satan] **Job 1:10** *"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

Luke 22:31-32 *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And after you have turned, strengthen your brothers."*

John 17:11-12 *I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*

John 18:8-9 *"I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."*

VII. The Lord Divides the Red Sea and Israel Passes Through (vs. 21-22)

vs. 21-22 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

- God uses a mighty wind to accomplish His purpose here
- Throughout scripture, wind is a tool of God's mighty power

Wind caused Noah's flood to recede (Genesis 8:1)

Wind caused the locusts to come to Egypt in the Eighth Plague, and then to depart (Exodus 10)

Wind would later bring the quail (Numbers 11)

Wind brought the clouds that ended Elijah's drought (1 Kings 18)

- God here uses wind to carve a path in the Red Sea... now any wind strong enough to carve such a path would be too strong to walk in, so somehow God held the water up like a wall on both sides of the path so Israel could walk through
- Hebrews says they entered and walked through the Red Sea by faith

Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

- Imagine the awe and terror of the Lord the Israelites must have felt as they passed through this awesome spectacle
- From an engineering point of view, to hold back this much water required an incredible amount of force

$$\text{Force on Dam Face} = (62.4 \frac{h}{2}) (w h)$$

In this equation, the force is in pounds when the width and depth are in feet.

(<http://www.grow.arizona.edu/water/dangers/damfailing.shtml>)

- If the Red Sea was 250 feet deep and if the crossing was eleven miles long, the pressure on each side would have been approximately 113 billion pounds... a total of 226 billion pounds of force exerted by God to keep the water in place like a wall
- Hoover Dam:

726.4 feet high (221m)
 1,244 feet wide (379 m)
 660 feet (203 m) thick at the base
 45 feet (13 m) thick at the top
 \$165 million dollars to build
 4.5 years to build
 4.4 million yards of concrete used for construction

21.1 billion pounds total force on Hoover dam face ... God held back ten times that force with an invisible barrier

A Nimitz-class aircraft carrier weighs 97,000 tons... God basically held back the equivalent force of water to lifting 1167 aircraft carriers!!

VIII. The Destruction of Pharaoh's Army (vs. 23-28)

vs. 23-28 *The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." 26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.*

- God frequently works His purposes by throwing the enemy into confusion:

[to conquer Canaan] *Exodus 23:27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.*

Deuteronomy 7:23 But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed.

[Jonathan's bold conquest] *1 Samuel 14:20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.*

- Pharaoh thought Israelites in confusion:

Exodus 14:3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'

- The Egyptians were the ones in confusion... but too late, they realized what was happening

He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

- God then simply told Moses to stretch out His hand and allow the water to flow back in upon the Egyptians

27-28 *Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.*

- Remarkable picture of “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

“There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell's wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor any thing to take hold of; there is nothing between you and hell but the air; it is only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up.

You probably are not sensible of this; you find you are kept out of hell, but do not see the hand of God in it; but look at other things, as the good state of your bodily constitution, your care of your own life, and the means you use for your own preservation. But indeed these things are nothing; if God should withdraw his hand, they would avail no more to keep you from falling, than the thin air to hold up a person that is suspended in it.

Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not for the sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment

- God merely withdraws His sustaining hand and the waters come crashing back down upon the Egyptian army

IX. The Salvation of Israel (vs. 29-30)

vs. 29-30 *But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.*

- Liberal interpretations of this event are impossible to maintain... “Sea of Reeds”, swamp, etc.

Exodus 15:5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

X. The Fear of the Lord (vs. 31)

vs. 31 *And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.*

