

## PARTING THE WATERS



**(II Kings 2; Exodus 14:15-8, 21; Joshua 3:13-17)**

Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea (Exodus 14:16).

Israel's heart sank when facing two problems of great proportions: the sea in front of them and the Egyptians behind them. But Moses filled with faith assured them of God's provision, saying, "The Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again." (Exodus 14: The Red Sea seemed to be to them an obstacle of great proportion, for there was no place to run to, to escape the Egyptians. But it only took Moses to lift up his rod as the Lord commanded and the sea was parted. Through the night a strong east wind divided the sea. Israel was then free and the Egyptians were left in its midst when God closed it. So the words of Moses, "The Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again." (Exodus 14:13b). It

was a sight to see. The time had arrived when God was fulfilling His promise to Abraham's and nothing was going to thwart His plan of long ago.

The Red Sea was God's instrument to show His people that nothing was going to be impossible in their journey to the Promised Land. They were going to face many "red seas" in the meaning of their troubles in the way, but YAHWEH was going to deliver them from all. The parting of Red Sea experience was the opening of all the Lord was going to do for them. That should have been an eye opener for Israel to believe God's power. Would have God called them out of Egypt to let the Egyptians kill them? Of course not He who promised is faithful and will accomplish the purpose of His calling. The red seas of life are just a way to learn trust and confidence in the Lord's sovereignty over us, and not a stumbling block to keep Him from accomplishing His purpose. It was for Israel then and so it is for us today when we are faced with problems. The Red Sea experience also serves to show our future deliverance from His wrath to come, when the time is ripe for Him to do so.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them (Ps. 139:16). Even though God's plan for the nation of Israel was collective, No person is born by accident. Before any of them was born, and the nation of Israel was formed over 430 years before, God promised their father Abraham to give his descendants a land with milk and honey, (an expression of abundant riches of the land). The Red Sea was very much in God's plan to teach that young nation to trust in Him. Moses was key to making it happen. He represented the nation in its entirety. Although Moses and many others died on their way to the Promised Land because of sin, many were able to enter the Promised Land.

Israel, after forty years wandering through the desert, finally was going to enter the Promised Land. This time, under the leadership of Joshua, who instructed them how to. He said, Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord of all the earth shall rest in the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan coming down from above shall be cut off and they shall stand in one heap. And while all Israel passed over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, until the nation finished passing over the Jordan (Josh. 3). Israel faced one last time the miraculous parting

of the waters, this time to enter the Promised Land after a long journey through the desert. Before entering the Land, Joshua instructed them to sanctify themselves in view of what the Lord was going to do for them. It was going to be the final stretch of their journey finalizing with the parting of the waters of the Jordan River. They finally entered the Land the Lord had promised Abraham.

The Prophet Elijah knew that on a certain day he was going to be taken to heaven by a whirlwind. The sons of the prophets warned the Prophet Elisha about it, who responded, I know it; hold your peace. So, that was known by a few people. The two prophets went from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho and finally to the Jordan River. With them fifty men of the sons of the prophets went to watch afar off. I can't imagine how the heart of Elijah felt as he walked those miles to the place where he knew he was to be translated. When they reached the Jordan River, Elijah took his mantle and struck the waters, and they divided this way and that, so that the two of them went over on dry ground (II Kings 2:8). That was the second time the Jordan River had been parted. Elijah and Elisha walked a short distance when a chariot of fire and horses parted the two, leaving Elisha crying. Elijah left his mantle as a symbol of earthly things when taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. The Jordan River had to be parted again for Elijah to reach his final destination. At the right time and place Elijah was found ready and he was taken up to heaven. Elisha, on the other hand, was left behind as a type of those who are going to be left behind after the rapture happens.

Believers must learn to part the troubled waters they face in order to overcome them and proceed to the destination God has for us. It is of no benefit to complain about them and stand still afraid to take the first step, as Israel did. Faith is the force that impels the believer to obey God no matter the magnitude of the problem. The Israelites faced two serious problems at the same time: the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. One was parted and the other was destroyed when Moses followed God's direction. The seas and the rivers of our life are not to stop us from proceeding ahead, but to teach us to trust and have complete confidence in God while pilgrims on this earth. As Israel was called to sanctification before meeting with God, we too are called to sanctification and holiness in preparation to meet Him someday. As Elijah, we must be ready at any time to depart from this temporary home called earth. The waters must be parted for our pathway; our lamps must be lit at all times, and our ears ready to listen to the mid-night call, as the wise brides of Matthews twenty-five, who were ready

with their lamps filled with oil, showing the way to go. They had reached the destination where they were to meet with God. Their preparedness qualified them to enter into the kingdom of God, while the other five were left for not being ready.

YAHSHUA said, You must be ready therefore, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him (Matt. 24:44). To get there we must first part the waters; we must overcome them to reach the place where we are to meet our bridegroom. Since we do not know the day or the hour of His coming, we must live as if He were coming today. The breastplate of faith and the helmet of salvation and hope should always be on, our spirit, soul and body should be preserved sound and complete blameless at the coming of our Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah (Thess. 5:8b), for His promises stand firm in heaven and in our heart to experience them at His appointed time. The hour is almost here. Have you parted the waters?