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| Crossing the Red Sea  Exodus 13:17-14:31  Key Verse 14:22 “, 22and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.” |  |

1. Read 13:17-19. Why did God not lead them by the short way to Canaan? What assured their hope?

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| **17**When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” **18**So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. **19**Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.” |  |

2. Read 20-22. How did God lead the Israelites in the desert? Read 14:1-4. How did God help them to prepare for the future? Read 5-9. Why did Pharaoh change his mind?

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| 20After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.  14 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. 3Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4And 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.  5When 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!” 6So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3A17-14%3A31&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1899c)]and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. |  |

3. Read 10-12. When Pharaoh pursued them, how did they reveal their slave mentality? Read 14:13-14. How did Moses show leadership? Read 15-22. How did they cross the Red Sea? (Heb 11:29)

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| 10As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11They 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? 12Didn’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!” 13Moses 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. 14The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” 15Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16Raise 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. 17I 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. 18The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.” 19Then 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, 20coming 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. 21Then 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, 22and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.  (Heb 11:29) **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. |  |

4. Read 23-28. What happened to the Egyptians and to the Israelites? Read 29-31. What does “cross the Red Sea by faith” mean to them and to you?

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| **23**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 jammed the wheels of their chariots 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.  **29**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. **31**And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. |  |