

The Testament Spectator

SPECIAL MOSAIC EDITION

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Moses and the Hebrew Exodus Reported in Newspaper

Spectator NEWS

The Lord calls Moses to lead Hebrews from bondage

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The waters of the Red Sea, solidified all night by a strong east wind and then liquefied at daybreak, completely destroyed the Egyptian army.

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Straw is needed

Hebrew foremen asked Pharaoh to rescind his command prohibiting the Egyptians of supplying them with straw for making bricks.

"Why have you treated your servants this way," asked the Hebrew foremen. "Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, 'Make bricks!' Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people," they said.

Pharaoh, who retorted that the fault lies with them, accused the Hebrews of being "lazy" and commanded that they return to work.

"You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks," said the Egyptian King, punishing them for wanting to worship their God in the desert.

The foremen told Moses and Aaron that they have been made them a stench to Pharaoh.

Burning bush encounter with God on Mount Sinai convinces Midianite shepherd

An 80-year-old shepherd was called by the Lord God Almighty to liberate the Israelites after 430 years of Egyptian bondage.

Moses, son of Amram and Jochebed of the house of Levi, was commissioned by the Lord to lead the Israelites to Canaan, the land promised to the three Hebrew patriarchs' — Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

This commission occurred when an Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses, who was tending his father-in-law's flock at the far side of the desert in Midian. Moses led the flock to Sinai — known as the mountain of God — and while the sheep were grazing there, something caught his attention.

Up toward a hill, Moses saw a flickering-glow. He left the sheep and moved closer to see if this was a mirage. To his amazement he saw a large bush ablaze, but he didn't see or smell any smoke. As a desert shepherd for about 40 years, Moses had seen it all, but not a bush on fire, which didn't consume.

"Moses, Moses," a voice called from within the burning brush. He felt no

malevolent presence engineering this phenomenon. From the center of its leaves and branches, the bush radiated such a holy presence and warmth that Moses knew this miracle must be from the Lord God Almighty.

"Here I am," said Moses, responding carefully to the call of the Lord coming from within the burning bush. Being an intelligent and inquisitive man, Moses

will bring them to a spacious and fruitful land."

slowly moved closer to the burning bush to get a better look.

will bring them to a spacious and fruitful land."

will bring them to a spacious and fruitful land."

'I have concerned about their suffering, so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and will bring them to a spacious and fruitful land' — The Lord God Almighty to Moses

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'Let my people go' God says

Moses and Aaron speaks on the Lord's behalf

A Midianite shepherd who was a former Egyptian Prince petitioned Pharaoh to release the Hebrew slaves from bondage, Egyptian scribes reported.

The adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, who fled Egypt 40 years earlier for avenging the murder of a Hebrew slave by killing the Egyptian culprit, requested granting the Israelites leave for religious reasons.

"Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert," said Moses, son of Amram and Jochebed of the house of Levi, explaining what the Hebrew God told him to relay to the Egyptian King.

Considered to be a god by his people, Pharaoh was a little bit annoyed with Moses' request. As the King of Egypt, he was not accustomed in taking orders from anybody — not from man and certainly not from Hebrew slaves!

"Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go," asked Pharaoh, who decided not to take the duo seriously. As a matter of fact, he became somewhat amused by this dialogue, and toyed with Moses and Aaron.

"I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go," he affirmed.

Moses and Aaron weren't too surprised by Pharaoh's response. The Lord had already forewarned them that Pharaoh would not immediately let the people "go unless a mighty hand compels him." Egypt will be struck with many wonders, the Lord God Almighty told Moses.

Nevertheless Moses and Aaron (his spokesman) explained to Pharaoh that the God of Hebrews has met with them

longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks," Pharaoh ordered the slave drivers and foreman. "Let them go and gather their own straw. But require them to meet their quota."

Conditions became worse for the Israelites. Moses and Aaron became discouraged.

"Oh Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people," Moses said to the Lord. "Is this why you sent me?

*'I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go...
Why are you taking the people away from their labor'*

— Pharaoh to Moses, the Servant of the Lord, and Aaron

and instructed that they take a three-day trip in the desert to offer sacrifices, otherwise the Lord may strike them with plagues or a sword.

"Moses and Aaron why are you taking the people away from their labor," asked Pharaoh, ignoring their request.

"Get back to work," he said. "You are keeping many people from doing their duties."

Pharaoh questioned the motives of Moses and Aaron. He suspected that if the Israelites ever left, they would never return. He accused the duo of interfering in Egypt's affairs and inciting the people by giving them false hope.

To punish the Israelites for listening to Moses and Aaron, Pharaoh accused the Hebrews of being lazy. "You are no

Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people and you have not rescued your people at all."

The Lord told Moses to hang tight. "Because of my mighty hand, he will let them go, because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

Egypt will be struck with many wonders, the Lord God Almighty told Moses, but the Servant of the Lord didn't envision it would take water contamination, insect infestation, disease, darkness and death of firstborn humans and animals — a total of ten plagues in all (see page 3) — before Pharaoh would release the Israelites from slavery.

Moses reluctant to lead Hebrew exodus after burning bush encounter with God

As husband and father of two sons, Moses had a pretty good life

Even after experiencing the burning bush encounter with God on Mount Sinai and seeing the staff-snake-staff and leprosy demonstrations, Moses was still reluctant to accept leading the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

As Moses descended from the hill and walked back to his flock, he was in a most contemplative mood.

Recalling his conversation with God and replaying events of the past, Moses honestly thought that his time had already come and gone.

From the beginning, it must have been God's plan for him to be born to Amram and Jochebed and then become an Egyptian Prince. His parents of the tribe of Levi were direct descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No one but God could engineer a parents son to be elevated to such a prestigious rank.

Everything was working out, as the Lord God must have planned. As an adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses was reared, educated and trained at the King's court. He learned mathematics, poetry, music, medicine

and hieroglyphics. Moses was given administrative responsibilities as well as military assignments, and was responsible for defeating the Ethiopians who had invaded Egypt.

Moses had been the talk of Egypt. Everything he touched seemed to turn to gold. As an adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses could have been next in line to be an Egyptian ruler, some

but it all came to a sudden end.

One day Moses witnessed an Egyptian fatally beating an Israelite man. Angered at what he saw, Moses avenged the Israelite man by killing the Egyptian. He buried the body in the sand. The following day, Moses witnessed another confrontation — this time two Hebrew slaves were fighting.

"Why are you hitting your fellow

Moses honestly thought that his time had come and gone. An Egyptian Prince could have helped his people more than an outcast Midianite shepherd.

insiders speculated then.

As he walked back to tell his father-in-law Jethro and Zipporah his wife about the Mount Sinai calling, Moses thought about his princely days in Egypt.

After being around his own people so many years ago, Moses recalled seeing first hand the brutality of slavery and what it was doing to them physically, emotionally and spiritually. His people seemed to be devoid of any hope. Some had forgotten about Yahweh and other's continually cried out to Him for deliverance.

He seemed to be in a perfect position to help his brethren. At 40-years-old, Moses was at the prime of his life then,

Hebrew," Moses recalled asking the man who was in the wrong. Aware of Moses' royal status, the Hebrew man asked the Egyptian Prince who put him in charge over them.

"Are you thinking about killing me as you killed the Egyptian," the Hebrew man added sarcastically.

Moses became fearful that the murder of the Egyptian would become public and he'd be punished by having to pay with his own life. His fear materialized because when Pharaoh heard about the murder, he tried to execute him.

Moses escaped from Egypt and journeyed to Midian. Events, which to Moses had gone awry, had relegated him

from an Egyptian Prince to a common criminal.

What happened, Moses recalled repeatedly asking himself during his flight from Egypt 40 years ago. Was it Providence that caused his demise or some sort of malevolent scheme, which accelerated his fall from princely grace?

Well that's dried water in the well. It's been 40 years now, and Moses, a married man and father of two, had a pretty good life.

Now the Lord God Almighty, who appears to him in a most inexplicable manner, wants him to return to Egypt in this most humble state and lead the Hebrews out of Egyptian bondage! What's up with this timing?

Moses thought an Egyptian Prince could have helped his people more than an outcast Midianite shepherd.

Why after all of these 40 years in the desert, living a monastic existence tending his father-in-law's sheep, would the Lord God Almighty want him to return to Egypt?

Moses had plenty of years left on this earth. Although the 80-year-old didn't feel as young and spry as he once did, he must accept God's will for his life because the future of his people depended upon it.

Moses called to lead Hebrews...

(Continued from Page 1, Column 4) the Israelites go."

To demonstrate His power to Moses, God converted his staff into a snake and changed it back. Then the Lord gave Moses' hand leprosy and healed it.

Still, the 80-year-old Levite shepherd tried to refuse God's commission. Moses told the Lord he was unfit to lead, feared the people wouldn't respect him, claimed he couldn't talk very well and requested that another be sent in his place.

At this point God was getting very angry with Moses' resistance. The Lord revealed to Moses that his older brother Aaron was en route to assist him.

"You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth," the Lord God said. "I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do."

Moses had no choice to accept what God wanted him to do.

Upon arriving from his burning bush experience, Moses told Jethro, his father-in-law, about all that had transpired on Mount Sinai.

"Let me go back to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive," Moses said to Jethro, seeking release from his responsibilities and wanting to depart with his father-in-law's blessing.

"Go, and I wish you well," said Jethro, who had become a surrogate father to his daughter's husband.

A little reluctant to uproot the family, Moses' wife Zipporah had no choice but to take her two sons — Gershom and Eliezer — and go to Egypt along with her husband.

At long last, Aaron reunites with Moses; Becomes his spokesman

Suspects brother Moses still destined for greatness

It's been about 40 years since 83-year-old Aaron has seen his younger brother.

Even after all of these years, Aaron felt in his heart of hearts that Moses was still alive, but he just wasn't sure — that is until he received a word from the Lord.

"Go into the desert to meet Moses," the Lord God Almighty commanded Aaron.

Aaron felt his brother Moses, an adopted Prince of Egypt, was destined for greatness.

He too thought about the string of coincidences, impeccable timings and Providential arrangements involving his younger brother's life.

Before Moses was born, Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew male babies were to be drowned because the Israelites were becoming too numerous. But Moses was miraculously spared.

Mother Jochebed, an ingenious and opportunistic woman, made a papyrus basket and launched it toward the direction on the Nile River where Pharaoh's daughter and maidens routinely bathed.

A woman going through such measures to protect her young is easily understandable, but Aaron recalls Mother Jochebed telling him that she felt that saving Moses from death was not only vital to the family, but also important to all Hebrews.

Aaron reflected about the role of his sister, Miriam.

Mother Jochebed assigned her to look

after Moses in the papyrus basket.

When Pharaoh's daughter found their baby brother, Miriam proposed that his mother nurse him.

Not only did Pharaoh's daughter accept his sister's offer, but also she even offered to pay for Mother Jochebed's services.

And when the baby was weaned, he was adopted. Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses" because she drew him out of the water.

This string of coincidences and impeccable timings was just pure Providence.

'Go into the desert to meet Moses' — The Lord God Almighty

It's been 40 years though. What could the word of the Lord mean now. Aaron thought as he prepared to rendezvous with Moses somewhere in the desert.

Maybe Moses had recruited and trained an army, Aaron speculated. He quickly ruled that possibility out.

As Prince of Egypt Moses might have been a born leader and a brilliant military strategist — some say he was solely responsible for the Ethiopian campaign — but Aaron never knew his brother to be that methodical and patient to raise an army.

Aaron was not a military man but he even knew to attempt liberating the Hebrews by military action would be futile and highly unlikely.

Visions of liberating the Hebrews filled Aaron's mind, but perhaps the Lord just wanted him to be reunited with his long, lost brother.

Aaron decided not to speculate any longer. He would just wait and see,

Aaron was thankful to the Lord that his journey in the wilderness, although physically challenging because of his age, was uneventful.

He wasn't as young when Moses took a similar route to escape Pharaoh's death warrant more than 40 years earlier.

Aaron came upon some grazing sheep. He knew that a shepherd must be nearby.

Up ahead, Aaron saw a robed figure and recognized the profile as his long lost brother, Moses.

The white hair and beard made him look very distinguished — quite different

than the young man he recalled.

Anticipating the reunion with his brother, Moses recognized Aaron immediately.

It was a tearful reunion when the two brothers embraced.

Moses told Aaron about God's commission, the staff-snake-staff and leprosy demonstrations, and everything else, which he and the Lord discussed. Aaron gave Moses a rundown on what was going on in Egypt.

There was so much for them to catch up on. Aaron met Moses' wife Zipporah and their two sons, Gershom and Eliezer.

He saw that his younger brother had done quite well for himself.

The rest of Moses' days probably would have been uneventful, Aaron recalled to *The Testament Spectator*, if it wasn't for God commissioning his younger brother to become the Servant of the Lord and lead their people out of Egyptian bondage.

Distraught Pharaoh releases Israelites

After 430 years of Egyptian bondage, liberation at last

The Lord God Almighty struck down Egypt's firstborn and Pharaoh, distraught because of the death of his own son, released the Israelites after 430 years of slavery.

"Up, leave my people, you and the Israelites," Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron after summoning the two to his court during the night, fearful that any more plagues inflicted by their God would certainly kill them all.

"Go, worship the Lord as you have requested," Pharaoh said. "Take your flocks and herds, and go. But remember to also bless me."

Afraid that the Hebrew God would inflict yet another plague on them, the Egyptians echoed their Pharaoh, urging the Israelites to hurry up and leave the country, "for otherwise... we will all die!"

Those 10 plagues, inflicted on them by the God of the Israelites, Moses and Aaron, became progressively worse. But the last one, more traumatic, terrible and terrifying than the previous nine, killed the firstborn man, woman and even animal of every Egyptian household.

Even while the Egyptians were mourning their great loss of life by screaming, yelling and flagellating themselves, the Israelites were ecstatic, elated and excited about being set free.

The leaders blew the rams' horns in Goshen. No longer would the Egyptians be standing over the Israelites with rod or whip in hand to oppress them.

"Gather your families, belongings,

flocks and herds," the leaders told the people.

"And don't forget the articles of silver and gold for clothing the Egyptians gave you," they added, referring to the plunder which in a sense paid the Israelites for

all those years of slavery.

Preparation wasn't needed for the exodus of the Israelites.

In anticipation of their impending departure from Egypt, Moses already instructed the Israelites that they were

to have their cloak tucked in their belt, sandals fastened snugly to their feet and their staff firmly in hand.

"It is the Lord's Passover," Moses told the people about this new holiday, which was to be celebrated weekly to commemorate this memorable event.

Just the evening before, the Israelites were commanded to kill a year-old male lamb without defect, apply the blood on the side and top of the doorframes so when the Lord struck Egypt, no destructive plague would touch them.

The people were also told to eat the roasted lamb meat along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast.

At midnight, the Lord God Almighty moved throughout Egypt, killing every firstborn, from Pharaoh's firstborn son to the firstborn son of the slave girl. Death was in the air and wailing was heard everywhere, but not a dog barked at man nor animal where the Israelites lived.

Now it was a dawn of a new day. The sweet smell of freedom had enveloped Goshen and as the people mobilized, there was a carefree spirit in the air.

No more Egyptian slave-drivers would press them to meet quotas nor taskmasters punish them for mistakes. The Israelites were indeed free at last!

As the people readied themselves, Moses, the Servant of the Lord, was joyous that they were free, but he felt Pharaoh would still change his mind, rescind his order because after every plague the Lord hardened his heart.

Even though he knew that the Lord God Almighty was with him, the responsibility of leading and governing over six million people was on his mind and weighed on his heart.

How many disasters can a single country take?

Ten plagues afflict people, nature and animals

As punishment for enslaving the Hebrews for 430 years, the Lord God Almighty through Moses and Aaron his spokesman, inflicted many disasters on Egypt before Pharaoh released the Israelites from bondage.

Each plague became progressively worse, but the last one — Egypt's firstborn men, women and animals are killed — was more terrifying than the previous nine. The ten plagues are:

BLOOD: The Nile and all the waters of Egypt turns into blood, killing the fish and causing a foul stench throughout the land.

FROGS: Leaping from the waters of Egypt are frogs. The following day, Pharaoh asks Moses and Aaron to take the frogs away. His request is granted and there are so many dead frogs they are raked into stacks.

GNATS: The dust of the ground becomes gnats and afflicts both humans and animals.

FLIES: Swarms of flies afflict Pharaoh, his officials, the people and their houses. Goshen, where the

Israelites lives, is unscathed.

LIVESTOCK: A terrible plague kills the Egyptians' horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats, but the Israelites livestock remain healthy.

BOILS: A handful of soot from a furnace is tossed in the air and the fine dust is converted into boils, which afflicts both people and animals. The magicians could not stand before Moses themselves because of the severity of the boils.

HAIL: God warns the Egyptians to shelter their people and livestock from the impending hailstorm. Every man and animal who remains outside are killed.

LOCUSTS: An east wind, blowing across the land all day and all night, brings swarms of locusts which devours everything in the land that is left from the hail.

DARKNESS: So thick no one could see one another. Darkness envelops Egypt for three straight days, yet in Goshen the Israelites have light.

FIRSTBORN: At midnight, the Lord passes through Egypt and the firstborn men, women and animals are killed.

Egyptians regret release of Hebrew slaves; Army mobilizes for attack

Outmanned, outdone and outclassed by the God of slaves

It was payback time! That's all the King of Egypt thought when his advisers informed him that the Israelites departed.

"What have we done," they asked one another, as Pharaoh sat listlessly on his throne mourning the death of his firstborn son as the Lord was hardening his heart.

"We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services," they said, rationalizing with one another that the 10 plagues inflicted on them wasn't all that bad.

The water turned into blood was just a simple magician's trick.

Those frogs, gnats and flies were merely pests, and the murain afflicting the livestock, boils inflaming the people's skin and hail falling from the sky was just a mild inconvenience.

Those pestering locusts did eventually leave and the sun did chase that inexplicable darkness away.

And to think that all of those plagues never affected the Israelites in Goshen, angered Pharaoh and his court even more.

It's payback time! Revenge must be exacted on the enemies who were responsible for the deaths of their firstborn — the first fruit of Egypt.

There was not a house without the

death of a man, woman and even animal.

To Pharaoh, the mighty King of Egypt, he was outmanned, outdone and outclassed by the God of slaves!

This cannot be. He was seething inside. His allies and enemies would think he was a pushover!

The respectability of Egypt and his divinity as a god was at stake, Pharaoh thought and yes — payback time for what Moses and Aaron, his sidekick, did to them.

'I will pursue them, overtake them, draw my sword, and my hand will destroy them. I will divide their spoils'
— Pharaoh, King of Egypt

The King of Egypt rose. His advisers, administration officials and officers became quiet. They knew he was about ready to make a proclamation. Silence deafened the room. Then suddenly, Pharaoh spoke.

"I will pursue them, overtake them, draw my sword, and my hand will destroy them," he told Egypt's royal company as the scribes recorded the majesty of the moment.

"I will divide their spoils." He concluded convincingly.

As a show of support, the royal company pledged allegiance to Pharaoh and to Egypt and to avenge all the God of slaves had done to them.

Pharaoh commanded to make ready his chariot. His elite 600 chariots, the

other chariots as well as the officers over them, would lead the attack.

It didn't take long for the armed force to mobilize.

The Egyptians — all 600 charioteers plus 50,000 horsemen and approximately 200,000 footsoldiers — pursued the Israelites to the Red Sea.

The Egyptian forces overtook the Israelites as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Bual Zephon, and Pharaoh was surprised to see the

Israelites' back against the Red Sea.

Pharaoh salivated at the sight of seeing his enemy helpless — like lambs waiting slaughter.

"The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert," the Lord God Almighty told Moses Pharaoh would think.

Pharaoh's mood quickly changed. The Angel of the Lord, who had been leading the Israelites, went to the rear.

As if that wasn't enough, the pillar of cloud, which the Lord God Almighty had placed when they departed Egypt, also moved from the front to the rear.

Although Pharaoh saw what supernatural powers he was up against, his heart became hardened even more, which would lead to his destruction.

After all those miracles, Israelites still doubted God

With back to Red Sea, returning to Egypt for many was only option

The Israelites doubted that the Lord God Almighty could save them from the pursuing Egyptians.

Through the pillar of cloud behind them — which the Lord God Almighty put to protect His people — the Israelites could see the ominous sight of Pharaoh's 600 charioteers, 50,000 horsemen and approximately 200,000 footsoldiers.

All the Israelites thought was that there were no ships, boats or rafts to ferry them 12 miles across the Red Sea. Even if they did have vessels to ferry everyone across, such a transport would be an impossible operation because there were 6.1 million people to rescue.

A mob, which had surrounded Moses, the Servant of the Lord, was spreading mass hysteria in the camp and he appeared to be losing control.

"Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die," an Israelite man shouted to Moses sarcastically.

"What have you done to us by

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

God doubted...

(Continued from page 3, Column 4)

bringing us out of Egypt," asked another man, chiding him for lacking an escape plan.

For a moment Moses, surrounded by the masses who demanded instant action, reflected how the Lord fought for them.

Couldn't they believe that the Lord would deliver them again?

Ten times before the Lord inflicted plagues on the Egyptians, Moses thought, but the people forgot the water which was turned into blood.

Seeing the frogs, gnats and flies was also forgotten. The Lord inflicted murrain on the Egyptian's livestock but the mob pressing him on the shores of the Red Sea that evening forgot that their livestock remained healthy.

No boils swelled the skin of the Israelites nor did hail fall on their heads. Those pestering locusts flying around in Egypt never crossed into the land of Goshen, where the Israelites resided. And when the Lord sent darkness to Egypt, the sun still shone in Goshen.

While Egypt's firstborn were killed, the Israelites were protected as they partook of the first Passover meal to commemorate the Destroyer not entering their house and killing the Hebrews' firstborn.

At last Pharaoh let the Israelites go, Moses thought, and when the people were finally able to depart, the Egyptians gave them everything they had asked.

Jewels of silver, gold and costly clothes graced their wardrobes. The plunder, which in a sense paid the Israelites for all those years of slavery, was indeed plenty.

How quickly the mob forgot what miraculous and astounding miracles the Lord God Almighty performed through his brother Aaron, the Israelites' spokesman.

"Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians,'" yelled another man to Moses, bringing him back to reality.

Prompting another to say: "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert."

All the people saw now was that Egypt's mighty army was mobilized behind them and the vast Red Sea lay in front of them. Eyes were so fixated on their circumstances, that no one seemed to look above to the Lord God Almighty for deliverance.

Moses silenced the people and cried out to the Lord for help. Loud and clear the voice of the Lord told him to move on, raise his staff and stretch it out over the sea.

Miraculously a strong east wind divided the Red Sea in half and the Israelites crossed on the other side on a dry ocean floor.

Strong east wind parts Red Sea

Waves, by wave, by wave peeled back, water solidifies

A strong east wind parted the Red Sea, enabling six million-plus people to cross the other side on a dry ocean floor.

With their back to the Red Sea, the Israelites were trapped by Pharaoh's charioteers, calvary, and infantry. Even if there were ships, boats or rafts available for them to sail away, time was running out.

The people were frantic. The fatalistic ones said they were doomed. While the optimistic ones, recommending surrender, said it was better to live as Egyptian slaves than die on the shores of the Red Sea.

Mass hysteria had enveloped the camp and Moses, the Servant of the Lord, had to regain some measure of control or he would have a riot on his hands.

"Do not be afraid," Moses said to the people trying to allay their fear. "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today."

Moses' booming voice had such a calming effect on the people, they became quiet and he was allowed to continue.

"The Egyptians you see today you will never see again," Moses promised them. "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still," he stressed.

Moses wanted and desperately needed instant action from the Lord God Almighty. There seemed to be no time for the Lord to inflict another plague on the Egyptians as He had ten times before. Pharaoh's forces were separated only by God's pillar of cloud, yet this didn't make Moses nor the people any more secure because the Egyptians were so near them.

With his booming voice, Moses cried out to the Lord to deliver them.

"Why are you crying out to me," the Lord God Almighty asked Moses from atop of the pillar of cloud, ordering His Servant to command the people to advance immediately.

"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," the Lord God Almighty said to Moses, probably relieved that the Lord had a way of escape. "I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they

It took awhile for six million people to break camp, but the Egyptian army behind them and a way being prepared in front provided motivation. The people picked up their belongings and descended from the beach to the dry ocean bottom. No rocks or sea plants impeded their crossing. Even the flocks, herds, cattle and other animals were unafraid to proceed.

As far as the eye could see the wall of water, estimated to have been from 75 to 100 feet high, flanked the people on the left and the right. No one stopped to

'Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the waters so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground' — The Lord God Almighty

will go in after them."

Moses did as the Lord God Almighty instructed him. Suddenly, a strong wind from the east blew on the sea, peeling back the waters wave, by wave, by wave — from the surface all the way down to the bottom. The people, watching in disbelief and wonder, heard the whistling wind blowing incessantly as the waters became more and more shallow.

The noise was deafening, yet the loud sound of the wind reassured the Israelites that their Lord God Almighty was literally paving a way for their escape — in the tumultuous waters of the Red Sea.

The east wind was so strong it separated the Red Sea from the surface to the bottom, converted the waters from a liquid to a mass and totally dried the ocean floor. Yet this east wind — splitting the sea, coagulating waters and dehydrating the ground — was directed at the ocean. Amazingly, no one blew away.

Awestruck at what they were seeing, the people obeyed Moses' order to advance.

actually measure the height of the wall nor the width of the path because it was approximately 12 miles to the other side and the Egyptians had already begun to pursue them.

It took all night for the estimated 6.1 million Israelites to cross. However Pharaoh's calvary and infantry attack was laborious. Chariot wheels fell off and rocks as well as sea plants impeded their movement.

The Egyptian horses were even fearful of making the 12 mile trek to the other side, unlike the flocks, herds, cattle and other animals of the Israelites who proceeded without difficulty.

When the sun rose and everyone had reached the beaches on the other side, the Lord told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea.

Moses obeyed. The waters melted, engulfing Pharaoh's charioteers, calvary, and infantry.

The Israelites needed no ships, boats or rafts to ferry them across the Red Sea, for the blast of the Lord God Almighty's nostrils was enough.

Egyptian army destroyed; Drowned when melted Red Sea engulfs them

Pharaoh's charioteers, horsemen and footsoldiers never seen alive again

The waters of the Red Sea, solidified all night by a strong east wind and then liquefied at daybreak, engulfed and completely destroyed the Egyptian army.

Over 250,000 of Pharaoh's troops and an incalculable number of horses were drowned when the Red Sea swallowed the charioteers, horsemen and footsoldiers.

The impressive military force had pursued the Israelites on the dry ocean bottom all night, however their attack became very laborious.

Chariot wheels fell off, rocks hampered their advance and sea plants impeded their movements. The Egyptian horses were even fearful of making the 12-mile trek to the other side, unlike the

flocks, herds, cattle and other animals of the Israelites who proceeded without difficulty.

The Egyptian army were retreating when the 75 to 100 foot high wall of water — flanking them on the left and the right — melted and submerged them.

All of the 600 charioteers, 50,000 horsemen and approximately 200,000 footsoldiers were killed. Pharaoh's mighty army was reduced to sand on the beach.

Even Pharaoh, considered by the Egyptians to be a god, was also drowned as the Lord God Almighty had predicted.

Before a strong east wind parted the Red Sea the evening before, Moses assured the people that God would fight for them. The Israelites would never see Pharaoh's troops alive again, the Servant of the Lord promised his Hebrew brethren.

Those who were in a position to see

the many lifeless bodies strewn all over the shores remembered Moses' promise.

After witnessing this miracle, they feared the Lord and completely trusted Moses, the Midianite shepherd who was once an Egyptian Prince.

"The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name, Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea," sang Moses and the Israelites after the mighty victory.

"The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them, they sank to the depths like a stone."

The Prophetess Miriam — Aaron's and Moses' sister — also led the women rejoicing.

"Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea," the women followed Miriam, singing, dancing and beating tambourines along with her.

Editor's Note: The Testament Spectator, a newspaper which reports in a contemporary manner the characters, events and issues appearing in The Holy Bible, is intended to inform, educate and edify its readers.

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