12.08a Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1–31; Numbers 33:5–8; Deuteronomy 11:1–4; Joshua 24:5–7; Nehemiah 9:9–12; Psalm 106:6–12; 136:10–15; Isaiah 43:16, 17; 51:10; 63:11–14; Hebrews 11:27– 29)

✓ "*Check*" it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[...] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check "Activities" and "Handwork" found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- children of Israel: descendants of Jacob/Israel; they were not children in the sense of being young
- *to camp*: to stop traveling and to stay in tents for a time

Scripture: (NASB)

Exodus 14:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' 4 Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; 7 and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly. 9 Then the Egyptians chased after them *with* all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

10 As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."

15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. 16 As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. 17 As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen."

19 The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the

pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea *back* by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. 22 The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. 24 At the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. 25 He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen." 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. 29 But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

Numbers 33:5 Then the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses and camped in Succoth. 6 They journeyed from Succoth and camped in Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness. 7 They journeyed from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, which faces Baal-zephon, and they camped before Migdol. 8 They journeyed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 11:1 "You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. 2 And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it), consider the discipline of the Lord your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm, 3 his signs and his deeds that he did in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land, 4 and what he did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, how he made the water of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued after you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day.

Joshua 24:5 "And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. 6 Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt."

Nehemiah 9:9 "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, 10 and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. 11 And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters. 12 By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go."

Psalm 106:6 Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness. 7 Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. 8 Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power. 9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. 10 So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. 12 Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.

Psalm 136:10 [T]o him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever; 11 and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever; 12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, . . . 13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two, . . . 14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it, . . .

15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Isaiah 43:16 Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, 17 Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together and not rise again; They have been quenched and extinguished like a wick).

51:10 Was it not You who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; Who made the depths of the sea a pathway For the redeemed to cross over?

63:11 Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them, 12 Who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, Who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, 13 Who led them through the depths? Like the horse in the wilderness, they did not stumble; 14 As the cattle which go down into the valley, The Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So You led Your people, To make for Yourself a glorious name.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. 29 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

Introduction/Review:

After the first Passover, Pharaoh and all the Egyptians urged the children of Israel to leave Egypt. God provided guidance for this huge caravan of at least two and one-half million people by giving them a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. Thus, the people could travel by both day and night. \checkmark It seems as if they did, for they made tracks from Succoth to Etham, a distance of about 150 miles

[locate these places on the map found below], \checkmark within just a few days.* Considering the large number of Israelites, the pace of their travel, and the likelihood of traveling both day and night, this journey was a miracle in itself, especially since the trek led through mountainous wilderness.

Story:

The Bible gives specific locations where the children of Israel traveled. The details are interesting. After the people reached Etham, a territory at the north end of the Gulf of Aqaba (then called the Red Sea), God said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth (pronounced pai-huh-HAI-rahth) [locate], between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon (pronounced BAY-uhl-ZEE-fuhn) [locate], opposite it, by the sea."

Let us stop a moment and describe these places. Pi-hahiroth was "a valley between two high rocks" (<u>http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/12145-pi-hahiroth</u>) on the western side of the Gulf of Aqaba (pronounced AH kah bah). Its name means "mouth of the canyon"; so just this name itself indicates this was rugged terrain.

Baal-zephon is a mountain on the east side of the Gulf of Aqaba. Do you hear the word *Baal*? This is the name of a false god. The word *Baal* means "lord," and it often is connected with other words to indicate the supposed influence of this false god. In this case *Baal* is connected to the word *Zephon*, for Baal-zephon was thought to be the god or lord over the sea. Since this mountain is on the Red Sea, Baal-zephon supposedly was god over the Red Sea (https://biblearchaeology.org/research/devotionals/3794-confronting-baalzephon-the-spiritual-message-of-the-meeting-of-israel-and-the-armies-of-egypt). Do you suppose the true God was about to judge this false god as he had the others in the ten plagues of Egypt?

It seems as if the people had already traveled near this point, for now the true God said, "Turn back to Pihahiroth [locate] and camp opposite Baal-zephon by the sea. Why did God want them to go back? He said, "Pharaoh will say about the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them. I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."

What!? Pharaoh's heart will be hardened, and he will chase after Israel? Oh, no!

But that is exactly what happened. The Bible tells us, "When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, 'What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?""

So Pharaoh got his chariot ready and took his people with him. He took six hundred select chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ✓Some Bible scholars estimate the Egyptian soldiers numbered between 25,000 to 250,000! Pharaoh set out to chase after the sons of Israel, who had gotten away boldly and, they thought, had totally escaped. However, with horses and chariots, Pharaoh and his army caught up with slow-moving Israel as Israel was camping by the sea.

As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked and realized that the Egyptians were coming after them. You can imagine their fright. They cried out to the LORD. Then they shouted to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us like this, bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you, 'Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in this wilderness!"

Moses answered the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord that He will accomplish for you today. The Egyptians, whom you have seen today, you will never see again forever. The Lord will fight for you; keep silent."

Then the Lord told Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the middle of the sea on dry land. While you are crossing, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go into the sea after you. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army." The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. Doing this, the pillar of cloud and fire made the camp of Egypt dark but the camp of Israel light, for it was nighttime. The Egyptians could not come near the children of Israel all night because of the darkness.

Moses did as God commanded and stretched out his hand and staff over the sea. The LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night that turned the sea bed into dry land. The sea waters were divided like walls on the right hand and on the left for God's people. The children of Israel went through the middle of the sea on the dry land. All of them made it to the other side of the sea, \checkmark a distance of between eight and eleven miles, that night.

Somehow the Egyptians discovered how the children of Israel were getting away. They took up the pursuit and also followed Israel into the dry sea. All Pharaoh's horsemen drove their chariots after the people into the middle of the sea.

Sometime close to 6:00 a.m., the Lord brought confusion to the army of the Egyptians by taking off their chariot wheels and causing the chariots to swerve. The horsemen could hardly drive! They cried, "Turn back! Let's get away from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them and against us!"

At that point, as the Egyptians were trying to get out of the dry sea, the Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters come back over all the Egyptians and their chariots."

So at daybreak Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the walls of water came crashing down on the Egyptians as they were trying to escape. Like a stone in mighty waters, they drowned helplessly in the deluge. The Lord overthrew Pharaoh's entire army. Not even one man survived. where the children of Israel saw them.

Thus the Lord completely saved Israel that day from the bondage of the Egyptians.

When Israel saw some of the Egyptian corpses washed up on shore and all the great power that the LORD had used against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in Him. They also believed in His servant Moses—that he was servant of the almighty God.

Addendum for the Teacher:

Five sites vie for authenticity in being the Red Sea crossing. My preference is the Nuweiba (pronounced noo WAY buh) Beach area on the west side of the Gulf of Aqaba as the starting point and Saudi Arabia near the mountain Baal-Zephon as the "landing." The Nuweiba site supports the location of Mount Sinai in Arabia, as per Galatians 4:25, rather than in the Sinai Peninsula, as it is so often mapped.

This is one of the most remarkable events in the entire Bible. It is, therefore, to many, unbelievable. Although we don't need corroborating evidence to know that God's Word is true, it is fun sometimes to see the crumbs of such an event left behind in the natural world. We have several such crumbs for the Red Sea crossing. Photos are found below for each of the four items presented here.

<u>The Nuweiba Beach</u>: Note on the satellite map found below the white spot on the western shore of the Gulf of Aqaba. With mountains rising steeply on three sides, this was the only place with sufficient space for the children of Israel to assemble after coming through the rocky wilderness. Old maps name this area *Nuwayba' al Muzayyinah*, which means "The Waters of Moses' Opening" (http://creationoutreach.com/id68.html). For more information on this beach, watch a video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q878rFN5R94.

<u>The columns</u>: Two pillars, one on the western shore (on Nuweiba Beach) and one on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Aqaba, were allegedly erected by Solomon to mark the location of the Red Sea crossing. The inscriptions on the eastern pillar read, "*Pharoah, Mizraim* (Egypt), *Moses, death, water, Yahweh, Solomon, Edom*" (http://creationoutreach.com/id357.html).

The land bridge: Information is sketchy about this path, elevated and comparatively flat, between two deeps

of the Gulf of Aqaba. Even if no land bridge now exists, we know that God could have made a temporary one for His purposes. By the way, no picture can do justice to the actual sight it must have been for this many people to cross eight to eleven miles in one night. Surely, the path was wide. See the following video for more information: https://thejohn1010project.com/exodus-explored---wheel-in-the-sand.html

<u>Debris in the sea</u>: Artifacts and human and animal remains have been found in this crossing area of the Gulf of Aqaba. Wood becomes coral in this environment; gold does not. Both are found strewn like trash at the bottom of the sea. \checkmark The strewn nature of the coral is uncharacteristic of coral found anywhere else. \checkmark Chariot wheels with eight spokes known to be unique to the time of Moses are found in the debris. See a short video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOIRLsCk-TM.

For information about other possible sites of the Red Sea crossing, watch a short video at <u>https://thejohn1010project.com/exodus-explored---the-red-sea.html</u>.

*In 1967, Moshe Dayan marched his troops west (instead of east) from the most likely Red Sea crossing site of Moses and the people of Israel, Nuweiba Beach, to Suez City (near ancient Tharu/Succoth). Unlike Moses, who probably travelled both day and night, Moshe Dayan's troops camped at night and made the trip in six days (https://www.biblebelievers.org.au/bb971126.htm).

Lessons from this lesson:

• We see Jesus:

The LORD (Jehovah) went before the people in the pillar of cloud and of fire (Exodus 13:21). "The Angel of God" and Jehovah are one and the same person—Jesus.

- "Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power" (Psalm 106:7, 8). Although God is merciful, it would be better for His people not to rebel.
- God made a name for Himself that day (Nehemiah 9:10). This is one of the most astounding events in the whole Bible. God is mighty; His name (reputation) is great.

Activities:

- Play dough: chariots; horses; wheels; path through the sea; staff
- Snack:

Split enough bananas lengthwise so that each student gets one-half banana. On a plate or in a bowl, place the one-half banana between two banana-length strips of blue or red (for "Red" Sea) Jell-O[®]. Add crushed graham crackers over the banana to indicate dry land.

- Sing "Moses, Moses" found below.
- Print document "12.08 Moses 2000000 People Illustrated." Compare the number of Israelites to the number of Egyptian soldiers and chariots by explaining how the squares represent those numbers.
- Play "Sea and People." Separate students into three groups. Two groups will be the "water," lined up in two parallel rows. One group will be the "people," standing in single file at the end of the "water" lines. At a signal, the two rows of water "separate" and the third group walks through on "dry land" (copied from an unknown source on the internet).
- Review Questions: (Game: Write the questions on pieces of paper that look like broken wheels or print the ones provided at the end of this lesson. Students draw questions from a basket and answer them. If teams play, the person giving a correct answer may place the question-wheel in a pocket chart.)

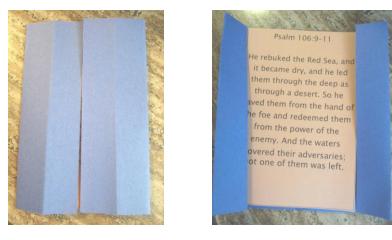
- 1. Where were God's people slaves? [In Egypt.]
- 2. Name the leader who took God's people out of Egypt. [Moses.]
- 3. What did God's people see to know God was with them? [Pillar of cloud and of fire.]
- 4. How did God use the cloud to protect His people when the Egyptians chased them? [Put the cloud behind His people, which gave darkness to the Egyptians and light to Israel.]
- 5. What did Moses tell the people to do when the Egyptians chased them? [To stand by and see the salvation of God.]
- 6. What did God tell Moses to do at the Red Sea? [To hold out his hand over the sea; it would part.]
- 7. How did God make a path through the Red Sea? [With an east wind.]
- 8. What did the water look like when the Israelites walked through the Red Sea? [Like walls on the right and on the left.]
- 9. Fill in the blank: The king of Egypt is called the _____. [Pharaoh.]
- 10. What happened to all the Egyptian soldiers when they followed the Israelites into the Red Sea? [Moses lifted his staff, and the water walls crashed down upon them, drowning them.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NASB)

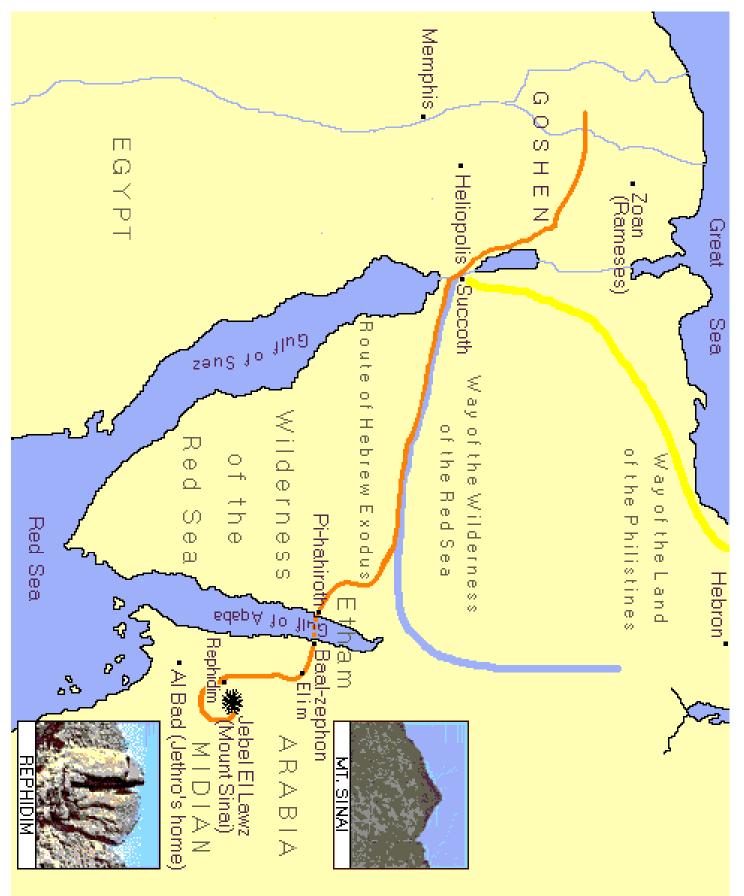
• Exodus 14:31— When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

Handwork:

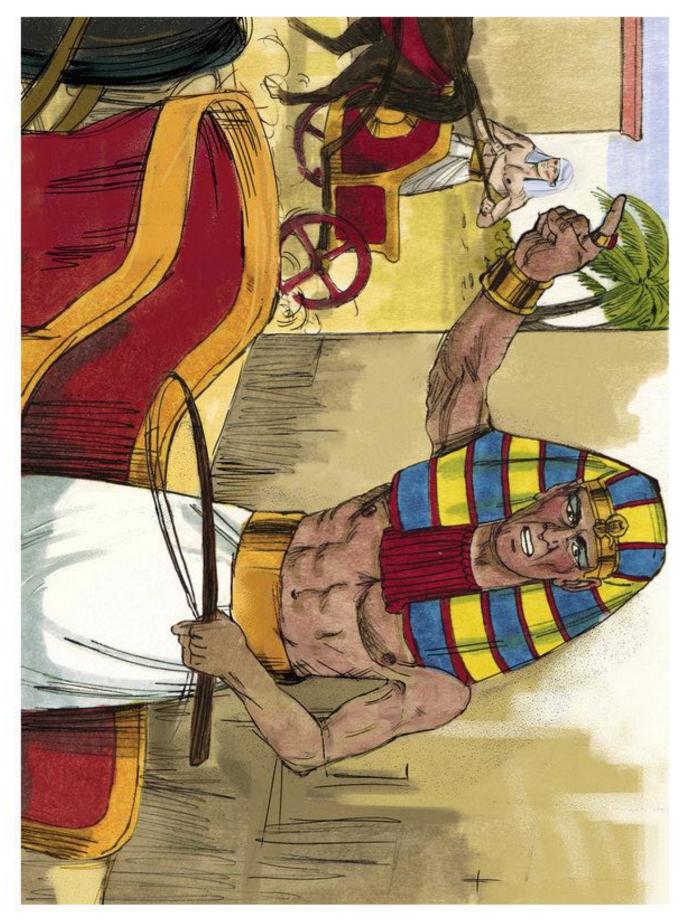
• Mark the center of the 12-inch side of a 9"x12" piece of blue construction paper. Fold both sides to this line. Glue the brown paper with the verse found at the end of this lesson to the center of the blue paper. Fold each blue "door" in half. Open folded areas to form "water "walls. (It may be necessary to use double-sided tape to hold the fold shut so that the path is not seen before the "water" is rolled back.)



children of Israel to camp



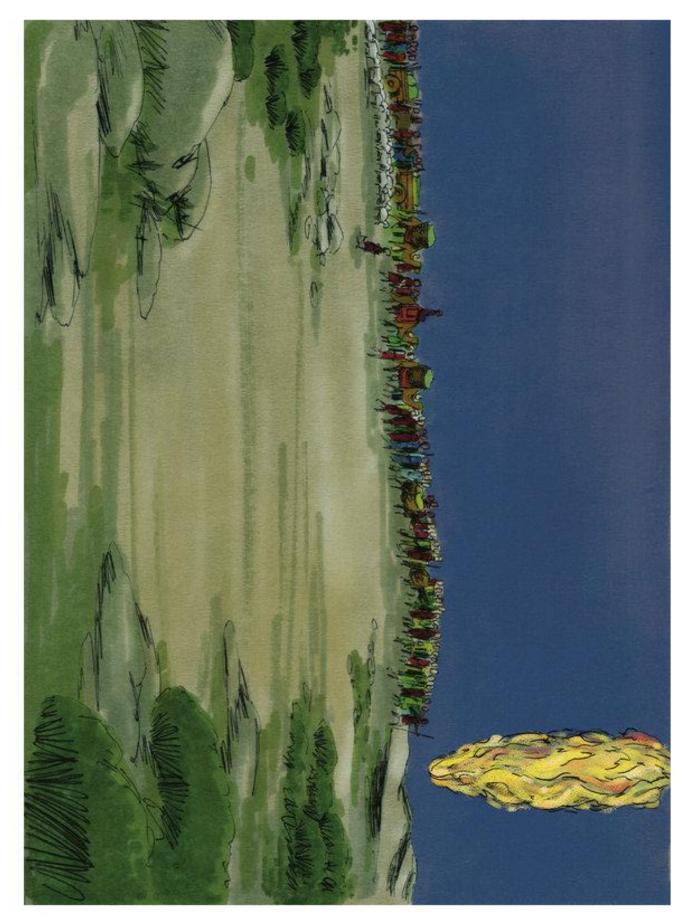
https://www.biblebelievers.org.au/bb971126.htm



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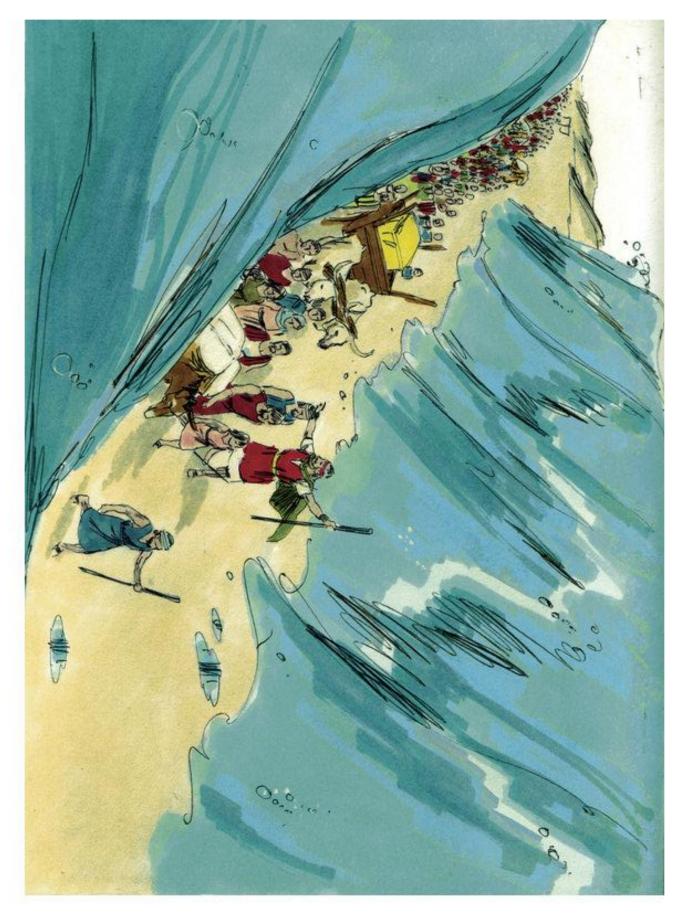
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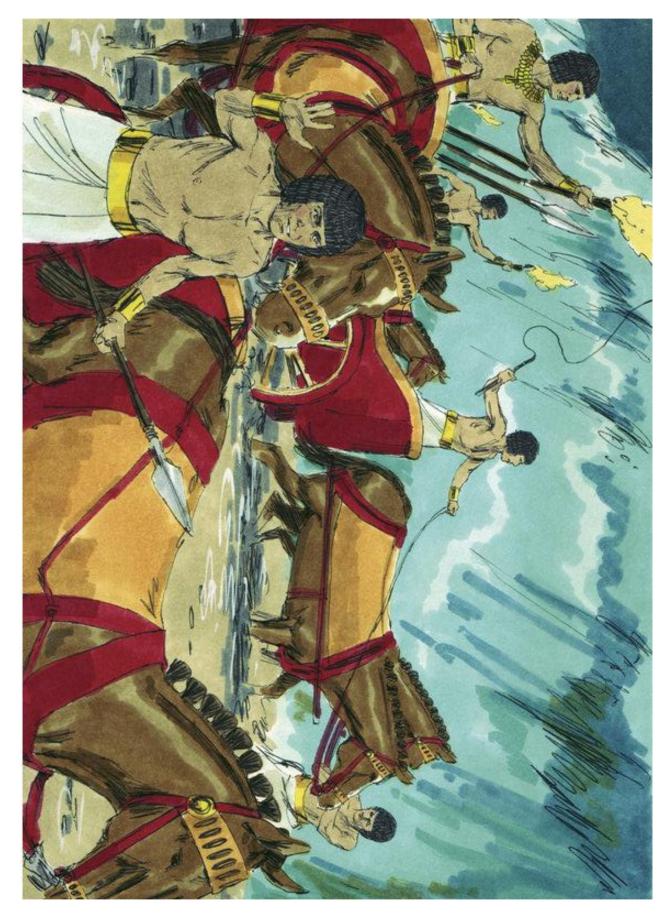
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(unknown source)



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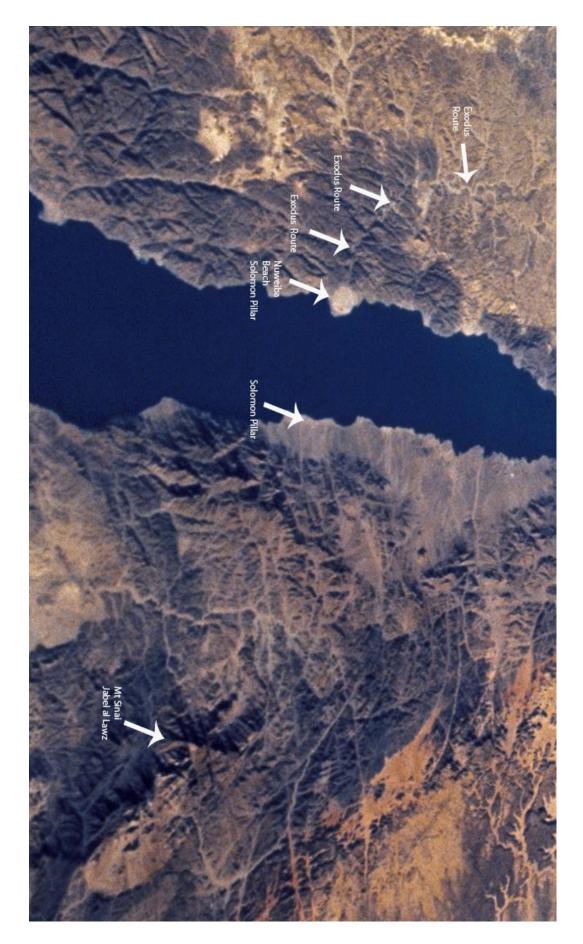
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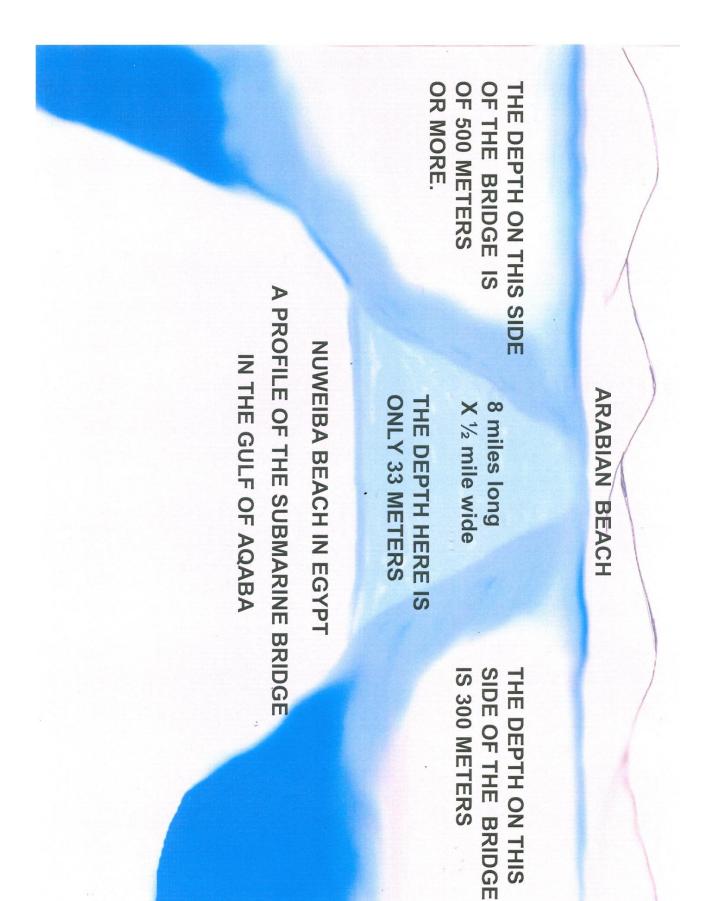
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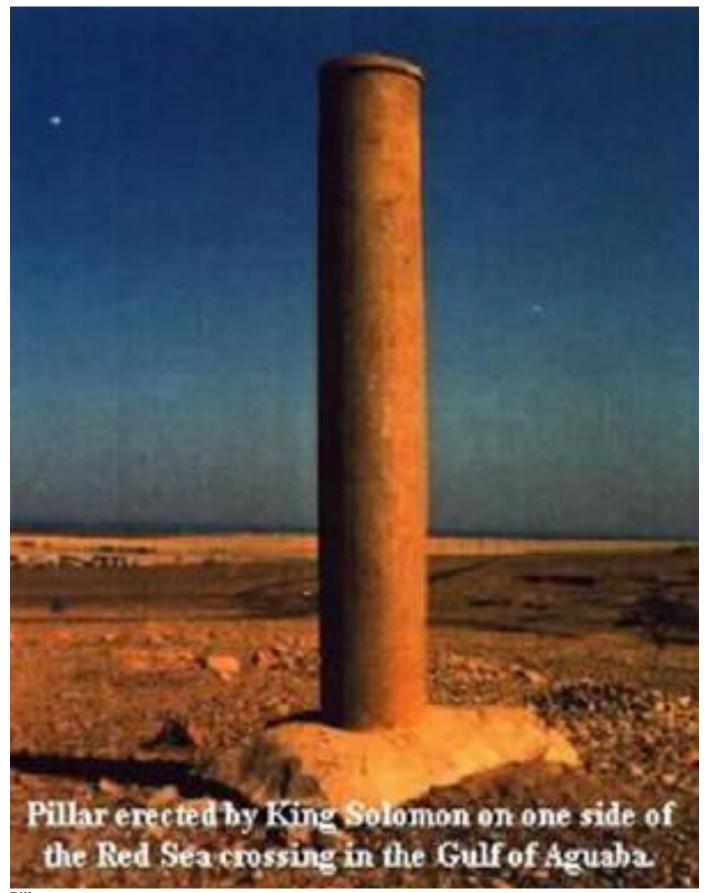


 $Nuweiba \ Beach \ ({\tt https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/lori-arnold/mind-blowing-discovery-researchers-claim-they-found-moses-exodus-route.html})$

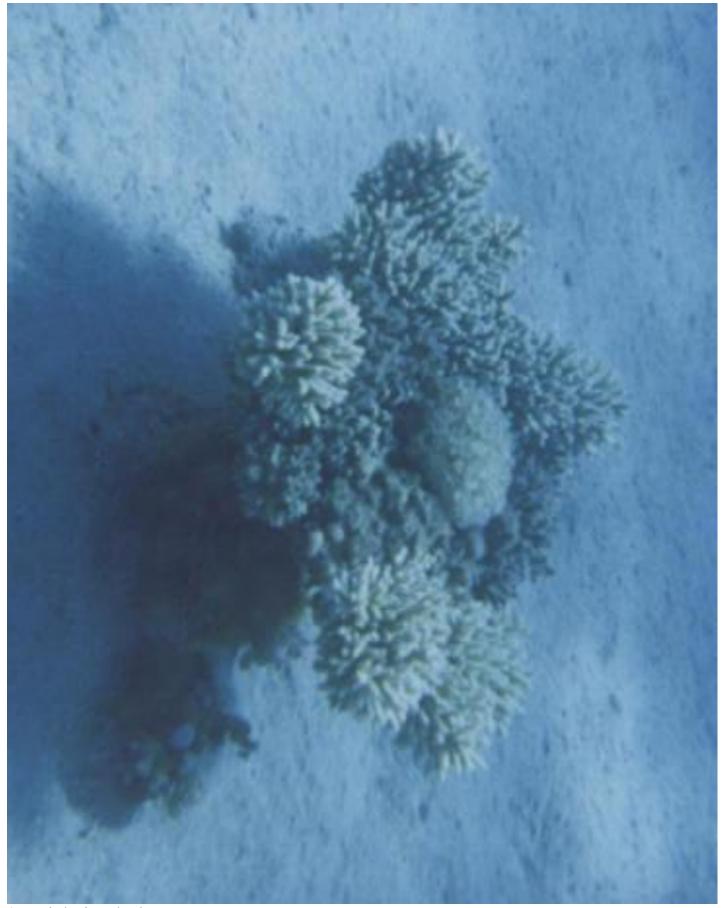


Satellite View of Crossing Area (https://redseaexodus.wordpress.com/2013/01/07/solomon-left-pillars-to-mark-the-site-of-the-red-sea-crossing)/





Pillar (http://creationoutreach.com/id68.html)



A coral chariot wheel (https://www.nairaland.com/3395084/red-sea-crossing-did-it)

Moses, Moses (tune: "Reuben, Reuben") written by Ruth Hale (found on the internet)

Moses, Moses was the leader Of God's people, the Israelites, And he led them out of Egypt To the Red Sea deep and wide.

"Moses, Moses, you must save us," How they cried in awful fright, "For the Pharaoh will o'ertake us, And we'll surely die tonight."

Moses calmed the frightened people, Held his rod away up high, Made a dry path through the waters. God saved His people, the Israelites. (last line altered from original)

Name the leader Where God's people who took God's people out of Egypt. How did God use the Cloud to protect His people when the Egyptians Chased them? What did God's people see to know God was with them? What did God tell Moses to What did Moses tell the do at the Red Sea? people to do when the Egyptians chased them? What did the water look like when the Israelites How did God make a path Walked through the through the Red Sea? Red Sea! What happened to all the of Egypt is called Egyptian soldiers when thep followed the Israelites into the the Red Sea?

Print for Review Questions. On opposite side of each piece, draw wheel parts. (See lines that have bled through above.)

Exodus 14:31

When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Print on brown paper. Cut on solid lines. Glue to the inside of blue construction paper that has been folded as per instructions in "Handwork."