

Twin Pillars

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 15th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**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.
~Exodus 14:9 (NASB)**

1) Fleeing Egypt While Following God

- A) After the lengthy instructions concerning Passover (Exodus 11:1-13:16) and the completion of all the plagues against Egypt, the people of Israel are FINALLY on the move fleeing Egypt (13:17ff).
- B) Rather than take the quickest Northern route to Canaan (Promised Land), known as the “Route of the Philistines,” God instructs Israel to follow a more Southern route out of Egypt from Succoth toward the Red Sea (13:17-20).
- C) The book of Exodus is primarily concerned with theology (God’s story). However, on occasion the text provides us with geographical and historical information. However, because we are 3,500+ years removed from the time of the Exodus, the cities, sites, and routes of the Israelites are largely lost and covered by the wilderness of Sinai.

D) What we do know for sure, is that Moses & Israel were being led through the wilderness by God (13:18). Israel’s national identity was enhanced through the moving of Joseph’s mummy (as promised, Genesis 50:25-26).

E) Like the burning bush (cf. Exodus 3:2ff), God leads Israel with a large pillar of cloud by day, and illuminating pillar of fire by night (13:21). This was both for continued movement, and for building confidence/faith (13:22).

2) Should We Stop For Directions?

- A) As Israel makes their way South, God directs them to double-back over their previous path, hook around the Red Sea, and settle in right near the sea, across from Baal-zephon (14:1-2).
- B) God reveals though, that this odd “aimless wandering” of Israel is all part of His plan to deal with Egypt once-and-for-all, and so Egypt will know “that I am the LORD” (14:3-4).

3) Charging Into The Trap

- A) Back in Egypt, Pharaoh and his advisors decide that life without Israel isn’t such a great idea after all (14:5), while also realizing that all of the slaves are not coming back! Remember, this is not coincidence, but God’s hand!
- B) Pharaoh calls in his “special forces” (the six hundred, 14:6-7), and the rest of his mobile military forces, and chases down Israel, who had left in a “high-handed” manner (14:8).
- C) Pharaoh, moving straight into God’s trap, catches Israel in their encampment next to the Red Sea, as the scene is set for an incredible miracle of power by God (14:9).

