

Exodus 14-God Saves His People From the Egyptians

Exodus 14:1-31

Based on the NLT (2004)

Transition

God's people, Abraham's descendants, had been living in Egypt for many years, where they were enslaved. God heard their cries for help and sent his spokesman* Moses to lead them out of Egypt and back towards the land he had promised them through their ancestor Abraham. Finally, the king of Egypt allowed the descendants of Abraham to leave Egypt. As they were leaving, God told Moses where to make their first camp, by the shores of a sea...*

Exodus 14:5-6, 9

When word reached *the king of Egypt* that the *descendants of Abraham* had fled, *the king* and his officials changed their minds. "What have we done, letting all those...slaves get away?" they asked. So *the king*...called up his troops...The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in *the king's* army—all his horses and chariots, his charioteers, and his troops. The Egyptians caught up with the *descendants of Abraham* as they were camped beside the shore...

Exodus 14:10-14

As the king approached, the *descendants of Abraham* looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to *God*, and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness?...What have you done to us?...Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone!...It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'" But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch *God* rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. *God* himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

Exodus 14:15, 17, 19-22

Then *God* said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!...And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will charge in after you...Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and *God* opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land...So the *descendants of Abraham* walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

Exodus 14:23, 26-28

Then the Egyptians...chased them into the middle of the sea...When all the *descendants of Abraham* had reached the other side, *God* said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers." So...Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the water rushed back into its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but *God* swept them into the sea...Of all the Egyptians who had chased *them* into the sea, not a single one survived.

Exodus 14:31

When the *descendants of Abraham* saw the mighty power that *God* had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They *believed** in *God* and in his servant Moses.

Why This Story?

The exodus from Egypt and entrance into the Promised Land were marked by Abraham's descendants' lack of faith and fear that God would not fulfill his promise to them to protect them and help them conquer the Promised Land. Many people today live with a similar underlying fear.

This story has been effectively used as part of a larger "Fear Not" story set. These fear stories, especially told as a set, can take the audience on a journey through a people's fear, and the proof, time and time again, of a God who is bigger than their fears. The "Fear Not" story set has been used effectively as part of an orientation course for new field personnel.

Story Crafting

To avoid confusion about who "Pharaoh" is, we have said "king of Egypt" instead.

chariots

We've included the reference to chariots and charioteers in order to add interest to the story and help paint a picture of what the scene by the shore looked like.

However, some languages and cultures may not have anything similar to a chariot, and it may not be helpful to include this in the story. You may omit references to chariots and charioteers if it is confusing or does not add interest to the story.

God

Most references to God in this story are actually "Yahweh," the personal Hebrew name for God (translated LORD in English versions of the Bible). Since "Lord" may be an unfamiliar religious term to some, we have changed these references to "God." If your audience has a name for God like the descendants of Abraham did (Yahweh, meaning "I am that I am"), you may use it in place of LORD (Yahweh), but be careful that your

audience understands that there is only one true God.

Israel has been changed to *descendants of Abraham* in this story to connect it with previous stories of Abraham and to avoid any negative attitudes towards the present day state of Israel.

Egypt

We have included the country name Egypt because the "Fear Not" story set includes more than one story which refer to this country. If your audience has trouble remembering this country name or if having this name in the story distracts from the story line, you may use a generic term like "the country from which they traveled."

Harden the hearts of the Egyptians

This figure of speech means to "make stubborn." This may not translate literally into your language, so you may either say "to make stubborn," or you may use an equivalent figure of speech in your language.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Please see the master glossary for a full explanation of these words.

Spokesman*

Choose a term for 'prophet' that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet:

1. receives a call from God;
2. takes God's message to men because he had been given it by God himself;
3. has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men.

We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortuneteller. If you use a religious term, be sure that it has meaning that the average hearer will understand.

Abraham's Descendants*

We've chosen to use this in place of "Israelites," "Jews," and "Hebrews" to show the epic storyline from Abraham. This term helps connect the stories, and helps the audience see that all of these different terms for the Jews really refer to the same people. In addition, it alleviates any prejudices people or cultures might have towards the Jews.

Belief*

This describes man's response to God's promise. It probably implies more than mental agreement, but putting one's faith/confidence in God.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words for **God, Spokesman, Abraham's descendants/Israel**, and **belief** that you have in previous stories.

Story Set Themes

Fear

Victory