

Deuteronomy 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day;

Analysis

The destruction of Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea (Yam Suph, יַם־סוּף) represents the definitive defeat of Israel's oppressors. The phrase 'made the water of the Red sea to overflow them' uses vivid Hebrew imagery of waters covering and destroying. This wasn't drowning by misadventure but divine execution—Yahweh wielded the sea as His weapon. The concluding 'the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day' emphasizes the permanent nature of Egypt's defeat—they never recovered enough military strength to threaten Israel again. This complete victory demonstrates God's ability to utterly destroy His people's enemies, providing assurance for future conflicts.

Historical Context

Exodus 14-15 records this climactic event. Archaeological evidence shows Egypt's 18th-19th dynasty military power declined significantly after this period, never again dominating Canaan as before. The Red Sea victory became Israel's defining salvation event, referenced throughout Scripture as proof of God's redemptive power (Psalms 78, 106, 136; Isaiah 43:16-17). It became the Old Testament parallel to Christ's resurrection—the decisive victory over the enemy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the finality of God's victory over our spiritual enemies (sin, death, Satan) mirror Egypt's permanent defeat?
2. What 'Red Sea moments' in your spiritual journey have witnessed God's decisive deliverance?
3. Why is it important to remember that God doesn't just weaken enemies but destroys them completely?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	לְיָהּ	מִצָּרַיִם	לְסוּסֵי יוֹ	
H834	And what he did	unto the army	of Egypt	unto their horses	
	H6213	H2428	H4714	H5483	
וּלְרֶכֶב וְ	אֲשֶׁר	הֵצִיף	אֶת	מַיִם	יָם
and to their chariots	H834	to overflow	H853	how he made the water	sea
H7393		H6687		H4325	H3220
סוּף	עַל	פְּנֵיהֶם	בְּרֹדְפָם	אַחֲרֵיהֶם	וַיִּאַבֵּד
of the Red	H5921	them	as they pursued	after	hath destroyed
H5488		H6440	H7291	H310	H6
וְהוּא	עַד	הֵי יוֹם	הַזֶּה:		
you and how the LORD	H5704	them unto this day	H2088		
H3068		H3117			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:11 (Parallel theme): And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

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