

Exodus 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Analysis

The command to 'turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon' redirects Israel toward the sea. This positioning, with water blocking forward progress and Egyptians behind, creates a strategic trap—from human perspective. The phrase 'before it shall ye encamp by the sea' places them in visible vulnerability. God intentionally creates a crisis requiring miraculous deliverance to maximize His glory.

Historical Context

The exact locations (Pihahiroth, Migdol, Baalzephon) are debated, but clearly Israel was directed to encamp in a narrow space between sea and mountains with limited escape routes.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes positioning you in humanly impossible situations demonstrate that salvation is His work alone?
2. What does God creating crisis to maximize His glory teach about the purpose of trials?

Interlinear Text

דַּבֵּר	אֶל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיִּשְׁבוּ	וַתִּחַן ו	לִפְנֵי		
Speak	H413	unto the children	of Israel	that they turn	and encamp	before	
H1696		H1121	H3478	H7725	H2583	H6440	
יִּ	הַחִירֹת	בֵּין	מִגְדֹּל	וּבֵין	הַיָּם:	לִפְנֵי	בַּעַל
H0	Pihahiroth	H996	between Migdol	H996	and the sea	before	H0
	H6367		H4024		H3220	H6440	
צִפּוֹן	נֹכַח ו	וַתִּחַן ו	עַל	הַיָּם:			
Baalzephon	before	and encamp	H5921	and the sea			
H1189	H5226	H2583		H3220			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:1 (Parallel theme): The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

Jeremiah 46:14 (Parallel theme): Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

Exodus 14:9 (Parallel theme): But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon.