

Exodus 14:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Analysis

Moses' obedience—'stretched out his hand over the sea'—activates God's power. The LORD's action: 'caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night' combines supernatural and natural means. The 'strong east wind' (ruach qadim azah, רוח קדִים עֲזָה) was fierce enough to divide waters. The result: 'made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided' created a path through impossibility. God uses creation to accomplish redemption.

Historical Context

The timing 'all that night' while the cloud barrier held Egypt back allowed the sea floor to become dry enough for passage. The east wind from the desert was hot and powerful, capable of extraordinary effects.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God using natural means (wind) for supernatural ends (divided sea) demonstrate His sovereignty over creation?
2. What impossible obstacle is God preparing to divide in your life while holding back the enemy?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּט	מֹשֶׁה	אֶת	יָדוֹ	עַל	הַיָּם	וַיִּלָּךְ
stretched out	And Moses	H853	his hand	H5921	caused the sea	H1980
H5186	H4872		H3027		H3220	
וְיְהוָה	אֶת	הַיָּם	בְּרֹחַ	קֶדֶם	עֲזָה	כָּל
and the LORD	H853	caused the sea	wind	east	back by a strong	H3605
H3068		H3220	H7307	H6921	H5794	
הַלַּיְלָה	וַיַּשֵּׂם	אֶת	הַיָּם	לְחֶרֶב	וַיִּבָּקַע	
all that night	and made	H853	caused the sea	dry	were divided	
H3915	H7760		H3220	H2724	H1234	
הַמַּיִם:						
land and the waters						
H4325						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:12 (References Moses): That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

Exodus 15:8 (Parallel theme): And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Psalms 66:6 (Parallel theme): He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

Isaiah 51:10 (Creation): Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

Nehemiah 9:11 (Parallel theme): And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

Psalms 74:13 (Parallel theme): Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

Psalms 78:13 (Creation): He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

Joshua 4:23 (References Lord): For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

Psalms 136:13 (Parallel theme): To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Job 26:12 (Parallel theme): He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.