

Exodus 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Analysis

Moses' obedience—'stretched forth his hand over the sea'—again activates judgment. The timing 'when the morning appeared' (at dawn) means Egyptians saw the wall of water returning. The phrase 'the sea returned to his strength' indicates waters resumed their natural course violently. Egypt's attempt to flee came too late—'the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.' God didn't merely allow drowning; He actively overthrew them.

Historical Context

The morning light revealed the returning waters. Egypt's attempted flight showed they recognized danger but couldn't escape. The sea's violence in returning to its place swept away the entire force.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1. How does the sea 'returning to its strength' picture natural order resuming to judge those who oppose God?
2. What does the LORD actively overthrowing rather than passively allowing destruction teach about judgment's nature?

וַיִּשָׂט	מֹשֶׁה ה	אֶת	יָד ו	עַל	הָם:	וַיָּשָׁב
stretched forth	And Moses	H853	his hand	H5921	and the sea	returned
H5186	H4872		H3027		H3220	H7725
הָם:	לִפְנֵי אוֹת	בִּקְרֹא	לֹא יִתֵּן ו	מִצְרַיִם		
and the sea	appeared	when the morning	to his strength	and the Egyptians		
H3220	H6437	H1242	H386	H4714		
נָסוּ יִם	לִקְרַאת ו	וַיִּנְעֹר	יְהוָה ה	אֶת	מִצְרַיִם יִם	
fled	against	overthrew	it and the LORD	H853	and the Egyptians	
H5127	H7125	H5287	H3068		H4714	
בְּתוֹךְ	הָם:					
in the midst	and the sea					
H8432	H3220					

Joshua 4:18 (References Lord): And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.

Psalms 78:53 (Parallel theme): And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.