

Joshua 24:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea.

Analysis

I brought your fathers out of Egypt (וַיֹּצֵא אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם)—the Exodus becomes the paradigmatic redemption event, foreshadowing Christ's greater deliverance. The verb yatsa (יָצָא, to bring out/lead forth) in the causative form emphasizes God's initiative in liberation. Israel did not escape; God brought them out.

The Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea—the mention of rechev (רֶכֶב, chariots) and parashim (פָּרָשִׁים, horsemen) highlights Egyptian military superiority. Israel, a slave rabble, faced Egypt's elite chariot corps—the ancient world's most formidable military technology. The phrase Yam Suph (יַם־סוּף, Red Sea, literally 'Sea of Reeds') marks the site of God's climactic deliverance. This impossible situation—trapped between Pharaoh's army and the sea—sets the stage for God's power display. Salvation comes not through human strength but divine intervention alone.

Historical Context

The Exodus occurred around 1446 BC (early date) or 1260 BC (late date). Egyptian chariots, introduced during the Hyksos period, dominated ancient warfare. Archaeological evidence from Pharaoh Rameses II's reign shows massive chariot forces. Israel's pursuit to the Red Sea (traditionally identified with the Gulf of Suez or Gulf of Aqaba, though some scholars suggest the Bitter Lakes region)

demonstrated Egypt's determination to recapture their slave labor force. The dramatic rescue at the sea became Israel's foundational salvation story, celebrated annually at Passover.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Exodus ('I brought your fathers out') serve as the Old Testament paradigm for Christ's greater redemption?
2. What does Egypt's pursuit with superior military technology teach about spiritual enemies and human helplessness?
3. Why does Scripture repeatedly rehearse the Exodus story as the foundation of Israel's identity and God's saving character?

Interlinear Text

וָיָבֹאוּ יָא	אֶת	אֲבוֹתֶיךָ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	וַתָּבֹאוּ	יָם	וַיִּדְפּוּ
And I brought	H853	your fathers	and the Egyptians	and ye came	sea	pursued
H3318		H1	H4714	H935	H3220	H7291
מִצְרַיִם	אַחֲרָי	אֲבוֹתֶיךָ	בְּכָרֹב	וּבַפָּרָשִׁים	יָם	
H4713	after	your fathers	with chariots	and horsemen	sea	
	H310	H1	H7393	H6571	H3220	
קֹדֶם						
unto the Red						
H5488						