

Joshua 24:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

Analysis

When they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians (וַיִּצְעֲקוּ אֶל־יְהוָה וַיִּשֶׁם מַאֲפֵל בֵּינֵיכֶם וּבֵין הַמִּצְרִיִּים)—the verb tza'aq (צִעַק, to cry out in distress) describes desperate prayer in crisis. God's response, placing ma'afel (מַאֲפֵל, darkness/gloom) between Israel and Egypt, recalls the pillar of cloud that gave light to Israel while darkening Egypt's side (Exodus 14:19-20). This supernatural barrier prevented Egyptian advance.

Brought the sea upon them, and covered them—the verbs bo (to bring) and kasah (כָּסָה, to cover/overwhelm) describe total annihilation. The sea covered Pharaoh's army completely—'there remained not so much as one of them' (Exodus 14:28). **Your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt**—Joshua's audience included those who were children during the Exodus (under age 20, thus exempt from wilderness judgment, Numbers 14:29). They were eyewitnesses to God's power, making their potential apostasy inexcusable.

Historical Context

The Red Sea deliverance (c. 1446 BC) destroyed Egypt's military might, enabling Israel's escape. The 'long season' in the wilderness refers to 40 years of wandering (1446-1406 BC) due to unbelief at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13-14). The

generation that witnessed the plagues and sea crossing died in the wilderness, except Caleb and Joshua. Joshua's audience at Shechem consisted of the next generation—those who were children during the Exodus but adults during the conquest. This eyewitness appeal ('your eyes have seen') made covenant renewal urgent.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Israel's cry to the LORD teach about prayer in humanly impossible situations?
2. How does God's placement of darkness between Israel and Egypt illustrate divine protection of His people?
3. Why does Joshua emphasize 'your eyes have seen'—how does eyewitness testimony strengthen covenant accountability?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּצְעֲקוּ וְ	אֶל	יְהוָה	וַיִּשֶׂם	מָאֵפֶל	בֵּינֶיךָ מִן	וְיִן
And when they cried	H413	unto the LORD	he put	darkness	H996	H996
H6817		H3068	H7760	H3990		
הַמִּצָּרִים	וַיָּבֹא	עַל יוֹ	אֶת	הַיָּם		
between you and the Egyptians	and brought	H5921	H853	the sea		
H4713	H935			H3220		
וַיִּכֹּס הוּ	וַתִּרְאֶה יְנָה	עֵינֶיךָ מִן	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר		
upon them and covered	have seen	them and your eyes	H853	H834		
H3680	H7200	H5869				
עָשִׂיתִי	בְּמִצְרַיִם	וַתִּשָּׁב וְ	בְּמִדְבָּר	יָמֵי	כְּבִימִ:	
what I have done	in Egypt	and ye dwelt	in the wilderness	season	a long	
H6213	H4714	H3427	H4057	H3117	H7227	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 14:10 (References Lord): And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

Exodus 14:20 (Darkness): And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Deuteronomy 4:34 (References Lord): Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

Exodus 14:31 (References Lord): And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

