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Bible Doctrine Presented in Q&A Format

THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA

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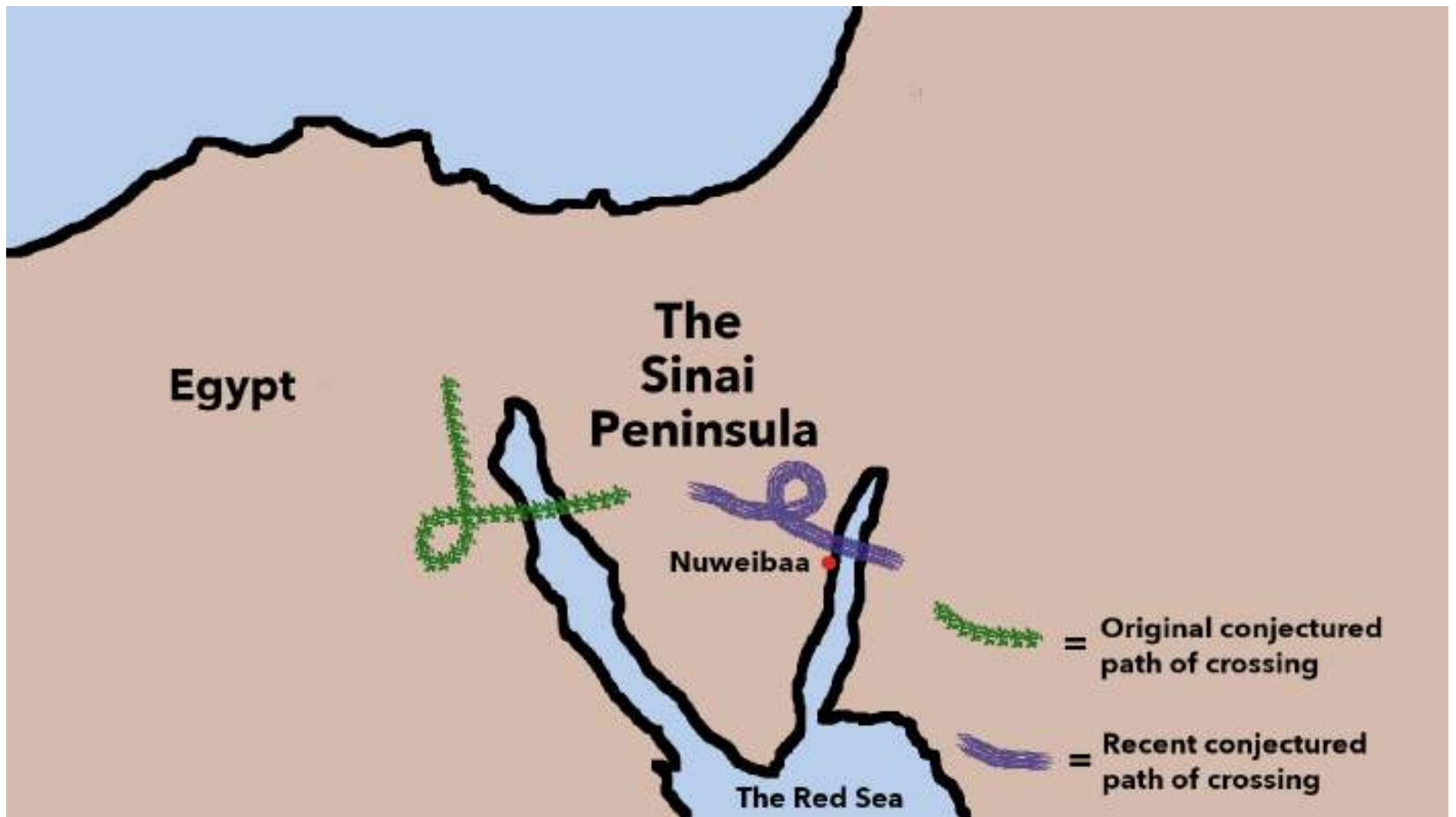
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The map pictured above comes from the layout of the land in the 21st century, not from 3000 years ago. In the 20th century, it was common for commentaries to pinpoint the crossing of the red sea on the left side of the Sinai Peninsula, as exhibited in one commentary¹, but based on recent archeological evidence, including chariot wheels and land markers put there by Solomon indicating the exact location, the crossing most likely took place near the present Nuweibaa², raising another issue. How did 2-3 million Israelites, with some added trekking to throw off Pharaoh, cross the Sinai Peninsula in only three days? With the maps of Africa, particularly as it pertained to the region around the modern day Sinai Peninsula, having a different topography just 500 years ago³, the answer most likely lies in the layout of the land sporting a different topography in Moses' day, allowing for everything to come to fruition just as the text has it, without forcing any of the details in the account.

¹MacArthur, John: The MacArthur Study Bible (Wheaton: Good News Publishers, 2010), 112.

²"Archeological Evidence For The Red Sea Crossing" (n.d.). Accessed January 27, 2025, from <https://evidence-for-the-bible.com/archeological-evidence-for-the-bible/archeological-evidence-for-the-red-sea-crossing/>.

³"Map Of Africa In Ancient Times" (April 3, 2024). Accessed January 27, 2025, from <https://worksheetzonecrafter.z14.web.core.windows.net/map-of-africa-in-ancient-times.html>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1) This material is designed for one session or four sessions.

2) The SET OF COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS is designed for one session.

3) You can stretch the lesson into four sessions with the other sets of questions.

4) It is recommended that the teacher is well prepared before class.

5) It is recommended that the students come to class with their answers written out.

6) Answers can be written on the back of the questions page.

7) The teacher can choose a select number of questions or all of them.

SET OF COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

1. Had there been enough miracles to indicate another miracle was going to happen?	21. Since the wind was a natural agent, how come it didn't blow the Israelites away?
2. Was Moses worried about getting pinned in? What about the children of Israel?	22. How do you refute arguments that the parting of the sea was all natural? (Exo 14:21)
3. What were the reasons for choosing this location? Was God just in tricking Pharaoh?	23. Was the seabed made dry naturally, or was it a 100% miracle? (Exodus 14:22, 25, 29)
4. Did choosing this location have anything to do with a smooth crossing over the seabed?	24. What was Israel's response after seeing the Egyptians dead on the shore? (Exo 14:31)
5. Regarding the historical location, what are the important factors? ¹ (Exo 13:20; 14:21)	25. Even after seeing God's power so clearly, why did the Israelites falter so often?
6. Where were they supposed to turn back to? Egypt? Goshen? Etham? Pi-hahiroth?	26. Did all of the soldiers die when the waters returned? (Exo 14:28)
7. What does it mean when believers talk about the waters being parted?	27. Do all miracles from God bring the same kind of benefit? (See Matt 14:25.)
8. After the waters were parted for you, did your faith grow a notch?	28. Should a foreigner have joined Israel in that day just because of the miracles?
9. How does this account signify God's purpose in punishment and willingness to save?	29. With reference to Israel, what was the reason for the miracles in Egypt? (Deut 4:34-35)
10. How much weight will a strong prayer life carry in parting the waters?	30. Did you remember to thank God the last time you crossed the Red Sea?
11. How could Pharaoh so quickly forget about the devastation of the ten plagues?	31. What type of literary work in scripture is Exodus 15:1-18 regarded as?
12. What right did God have to harden Pharaoh's heart this round? ² (Exo 14:4, 17)	32. From where does our strength come? To whom is the praise to go? (Exodus 15:1-2)
13. How are Exodus 14:18 and Exodus 14:25 related?	33. Is the LORD willing to go to war? (See Exodus 15:3, Ecc 3:8 and John 18:36.)
14. What did the questions in Exo 14:11-12 indicate? Did Moses apply Prov 26:4 or 26:5?	34. How does anthropomorphism play a role in this account? (See Exodus 15:6, 8, & 12.)
15. Did the children of Israel have reason to doubt the outcome? (Exodus 14:13)	35. What is wrong with the attitude of the Egyptians? (Exodus 15:9)
16. Could the Egyptians change their minds about the chase? (Exodus 14:17)	36. Can you discuss the Egyptians' overthrow in light of Israel's defeat in Judges 2:11-15?
17. Could any of these soldiers have joined the mixed multitude when Israel left Egypt?	37. How is God's sovereignty over the elements exhibited? (Exodus 15:10)
18. Does rebellion remove protection that authority provides? (Romans 13:2)	38. Is God acknowledging that other gods exist in name only or really exist? (Exo 15:11)
19. What type of enemy has been chasing you recently?	39. What kinds of "I will" should believers say? (Psalm 9:1-2; 32:5; 52:9; 59:16; 66:16)
20. Who is your biggest enemy?	40. Is something wrong when believers don't have testimonies of recent victories?

PREPARATION OF THE CROSSING (Exodus 14:1-2)

1. Did their camp facing the sea cause Pharaoh to pursue them?	21. What does it mean when believers talk about the waters being parted?
2. Was there any resistance on the side of the children of Israel regarding this location?	22. Have you ever needed the waters to be parted?
3. Had there been enough miracles to indicate another miracle was going to happen?	23. What should you do when the waters aren't parted for you?
4. Specifically, should they have known that there was going to be a parting of the sea?	24. When was the last time the waters were parted for you?
5. Before the parting of the Red Sea, approximately how many miracles had taken place?	25. When was the last time the waters weren't parted for you?
6. Was Moses worried about getting pinned in? What about the children of Israel?	26. After the waters were parted for you, did your faith grow a notch?
7. Should the faith of the children of Israel have been further than where it was?	27. Is it true that God knows when to part the waters?
8. Were there less treacherous routes to move further into the wilderness?	28. Have you thought about devoting serious time to prayer and see if the waters part?
9. What were the reasons for choosing this location?	29. Would God part the waters when no people are there? God knows all about timing.
10. There are various theories on the actual plot. What is the main thing ^{1a} to get from this?	30. How does this account signify God's willingness to save people?
11. Did this location have anything to do with a smooth crossing over the seabed?	31. How does this account signify God's purpose in punishing people?
12. Had Moses and the gang gone anywhere else, would it still have gotten across?	32. Is it easy to forget what God has done? What should be done to prevent forgetfulness?
13. Do we know for sure at what location they actually crossed?	33. Does God ever set a trap for his children? (Ezekiel 3:20) Please explain.
14. Regarding the historical location, what are the important factors? ^{2a} (Exo 13:20; 14:21)	34. Can a time of testing be construed as a trap?
15. What was required of Moses in this step of preparation?	35. What are some traps God's children set for themselves?
16. Why were they told to turn back? (Exodus 14:2-3)	36. How can a crossroads in life be likened to this account?
17. Was God righteous in tricking Pharaoh?	37. How many crossroads in life have you been through?
18. Where were they supposed to turn back to? Egypt? Goshen? Etham? Pi-hahiroth?	38. How can you remember or remind yourself of the times when God parted the waters?
19. While it looked like a trap for Israel, who was the trap really for?	39. How much weight will a strong prayer life carry in parting the waters?
20. Do you think Pharaoh thought that God's power had run out?	40. What examples are there in life that mirror the parting of the waters?

^{1a}After plague number eight, there was no more opportunity for Pharaoh to repent. Round six was the time God took over. Then round seven was Pharaoh's last chance.

^{2a}There are various maps on the exodus. The location of Etham, at the edge of the wilderness, not in the middle of it, is an important aspect. Their movements purposely threw Pharaoh off.

THE CHASE (Exodus 14:3-20)

1. Why did the Israelites exhibit fear, but the Egyptians did not? (Exodus 14:6, 9-10, 28)	21. How was God preparing them for future obedience?
2. Did God have reason to design the movement and location of the children of Israel?	22. How can you apply this lesson to life in the 21st century?
3. How could Pharaoh so quickly forget about the devastation of the ten plagues?	23. What kinds of things in the world today chase us in order to destroy us?
4. What right did God have to harden Pharaoh's heart this round ^{1b} ? (Exodus 14:4, 17)	24. What do believers need to do to gain protection from God? (See Ephesians 6:12-13.)
5. God said they "shall know that I am the LORD," multiple times. Why didn't they change?	25. Specifically, what can believers rely on for protection? (See Ephesians 6:14-17.)
6. How are Exodus 14:18 and Exodus 14:25 related?	26. How about naming another type of protective device? (Ephesians 6:18; Matt 26:41)
7. Without GPS's and tracking devices, how did Pharaoh know about Israel's whereabouts?	27. Does rebellion remove protection that authority provides? (Romans 13:2)
8. Did the Egyptian soldiers exhibit confidence throughout? (See Exo 14:6, 17, 18 & 28.)	28. How did the matter of authority protect the children of Israel during this time?
9. What did the questions in Exo 14:11-12 indicate? Did Moses apply Prov 26:4 or 26:5?	29. What is the best protective device when it comes to enemies coming after you?
10. Were they upset at God or Moses? (Exo 14:12) How was Moses doing? (Exo 14:13-14)	30. What aspects in the world can be construed as enemies?
11. Could the Egyptians have done anything to increase the probability of success?	31. Can your own ideologies be construed as enemies?
12. Did the children of Israel have reason to doubt the outcome? (Exodus 14:13)	32. Who is your biggest enemy?
13. What was between them? (Exo 14:19-20) What did the Egyptians see? (Josh 24:7)	33. What type of enemy has been chasing you recently?
14. Do you think they thought about trying to make it through the cloud anyway?	34. How do you discern what an enemy is, and who it is?
15. Could the Egyptians turn back after the chase got underway? (Exodus 14:17)	35. Were there any requirements on Israel's side to have that cloud between them?
16. Do you think this location ^{2b} was chosen purposely to incite more drama?	36. After seeing God's protection, should your walk with Christ be strengthened? How so?
17. Could any of these soldiers have joined the mixed multitude when Israel left Egypt?	37. After seeing God's protection, was your walk with Christ strengthened?
18. How is "standing firm" opposed to fear and impatience? (Exodus 14:11-13)	38. How does prayer play a role regarding receiving protection from you enemies?
19. How is the salvation of the LORD in verse 13 a picture of salvation of the human soul?	39. What battles are you facing at present?
20. Who took the initiative in providing salvation in verse 13?	40. Do you believe God will see you through your present battle?

^{1b}There are various maps on the exodus. The location of Etham, at the edge of the wilderness, not in the middle of it, is an important aspect. Their movements purposely threw Pharaoh off.

^{2b}Let the written word be your guide. Since topography changes over time, it is not necessary to know the exact location of the crossing.

THE CROSSING (Exodus 14:21-31)

1. What is one way God prepared the children of Israel for the crossing of the Red Sea?	21. Is scientific proof needed as evidence that this account actually happened?
2. How did God prepare the seabed of the Red Sea for the crossing? (See Exodus 14:22.)	22. Should such an account be turned into a lesson on apologetics?
3. Since the wind was a natural agent, how come it didn't blow the Israelites away?	23. What is the main lesson coming out of the crossing of the Red Sea?
4. How do you refute any arguments that the parting of the Red Sea was all natural?	24. Have you ever been at such a point in life?
5. Was the seabed made dry and wet by natural means? (Exodus 14:22, 25, 29)	25. When was the last time God parted the waters for you?
6. To whom did the Egyptians ascribe Israel's victory? (Exodus 14:25)	26. How does God lead someone to the edge of the Red Sea today?
7. What was Israel's response after seeing the Egyptians dead on the shore? (Exo 14:31)	27. How does God protect you from the enemy today? How does God fight for you today?
8. What should seeing the Egyptians dead on the seashore do to the children of Israel?	28. Would you have feared that the wall of water would have fallen back too early?
9. Even after seeing God's power so clearly, why did the Israelites falter so often?	29. Should such an experience increase your faith?
10. How did word get back to Egypt since Pharaoh's army was gone?	30. How should such an experience increase your faith?
11. How long did it take for Israel to cross the Red Sea? (Exo 14:21, 27)	31. Should such an experience cause you to fear God more? In what ways?
12. Did all of the soldiers die when the waters returned? (Exo 14:28)	32. Should such an experience cause you to trust in God more? In what ways?
13. Do you think any of the Egyptians knew this was a suicide mission?	33. How should a crossing of the Red Sea cause you to increase your faith in God?
14. How did God throw the Egyptians into a panic? (Exodus 14:24-25)	34. How should a crossing of the Red Sea cause you to increase your level of fearing God?
15. Why did God have them cross at the Red Sea? (Joshua 4:23-24; Joshua 2:9-11)	35. How should a crossing of the Red Sea cause you to increase your trust in God?
16. What do you think was the last thing that went through Pharaoh's mind? ^{1c}	36. Did you remember to thank God the last time you crossed the Red Sea?
17. Do all miracles from God bring the same kind of benefits? (See Matt 14:25.)	37. What is a good way to remember that God led you through the Red Sea?
18. Should a foreigner have joined Israel in that day just because of the miracles?	38. Do you think any of the Israelites doubted as they were crossing the Red Sea?
19. Had one joined Israel just because of the miracles, would they have been accepted?	39. What level of faith did Moses exhibit in this account? (See Exodus 14:13.)
20. With reference to Israel, what was the reason for the miracles in Egypt? (Deut 4:34-35)	40. What is unique to this story?

^{1c}After plague number eight, there was no more opportunity for Pharaoh to repent. Round six was the time God took over. Then round seven was Pharaoh's last chance.

CELEBRATING THE VICTORY (Exodus 15:1-21)

1. What type of literary work in scripture is Exodus 15:1-18 regarded as?	21. What kind of attitude should we adopt regarding our enemies?
2. Did this victory prove that all of the children of Israel were saved?	22. In the case when the enemy is still alive, it okay to rub it in?
3. From where does our strength come? To whom is the praise to go? (Exodus 15:1-2)	23. Can believers adopt the "I will" attitude? (Exodus 15:9)
4. Is the LORD willing to go to war? (See Exodus 15:3, Ecc 3:8 and John 18:36.)	24. Can believers adopt the "I will" attitude and claim confidence in God?
5. With reference to judgment, does rank mean anything to God? (Exodus 15:4)	25. Concerning the future, what attitude should believers hold? (James 4:13-15)
6. In terms of victory over the enemy, are you allowed to rub it in?	26. What kinds of "I will" should believers say? (Psalm 9:1-2; 32:5; 52:9; 59:16; 66:16)
7. How does anthropomorphism play a role in this account? (See Exodus 15:6, 8, &12.)	27. How can you remember to trust in God on a daily basis for the rest of your life?
8. What does it mean that man was made in the image of God?	28. Is an army who trusts in God guaranteed of victory? What if both sides trust in God?
9. What is wrong with the attitude of the Egyptians? (Exodus 15:9)	29. What are some practical ways to celebrate victory?
10. Were the "I will's" said literally? Were aspirations of the Egyptians fulfilled? (Exo 15:9)	30. How can you apply this passage to the 21st century?
11. Can you discuss the Egyptians' overthrow in light of Israel's defeat in Judges 2:11-15?	31. What does this passage say about God? What does it say about man?
12. How was God's sovereignty over the elements exhibited? (Exodus 15:10)	32. Was the parting of the Red Sea a 100% miracle, or was there a scientific explanation?
13. Is God acknowledging that other gods exist in name only or really exist? (Exo 15:11)	33. Are there any perceived contradictions between this story and any other Bible stories?
14. Does God actually compare himself to other gods? (Exodus 15:11)	34. Does God fighting for believers happen automatically? What about for the unsaved?
15. What are two important elements in God's leading? (Exodus 15:13)	35. Should believers always be stuck on a victory in the past? When do you move on?
16. How did the neighboring people groups respond to Israel's victory? (Exo 15:14-16)	36. Is something wrong when believers don't have testimonies of recent victories?
17. Was it by design to strike fear in the hearts of these Gentiles? (Exo 15:14-16)	37. Would Satan have known about God's claim that he would reign forever? (Exo 15:18)
18. Can you apply Psalm 145:9, 17 to the account of the defeat of the Egyptians?	38. What should your response be when the desired victory is not achieved?
19. Can you discuss the defeat of the Egyptians in light of Psalm 110:1?	39. What can you learn from failure? What can you learn from a normal day?
20. How should this victory have increased the faith of upcoming battles? (Exo 15:21)	40. What other lessons can we learn? (See Proverbs 14:23.)