

THE EGYPTIANS OR THE SEA

EXODUS 14 – 15



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Exodus 14:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They *are* bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ ⁴Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the Lord.” And they did so.



- A strange camp
- God hardens Pharaoh's heart
- Pharaoh buys the feint
- Purpose is to gain honor of Pharaoh

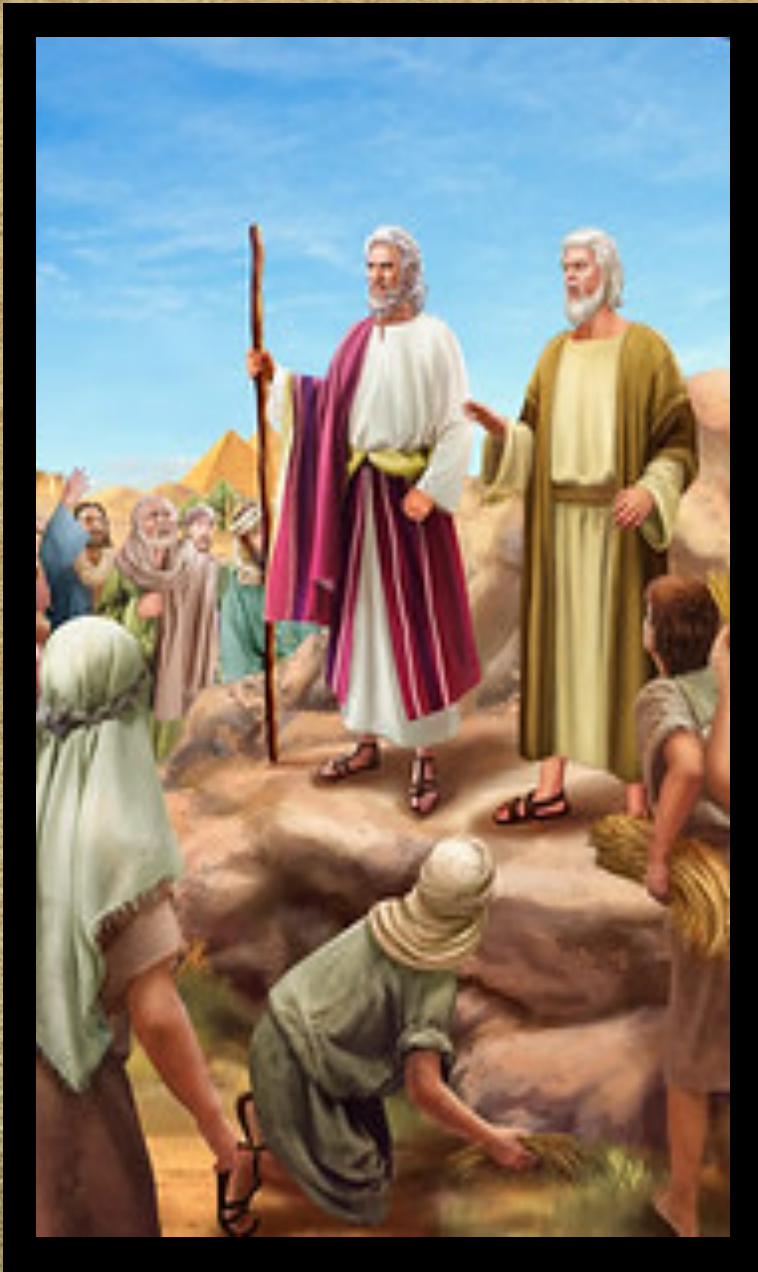






- **600 Chariots (A charioteer and warrior)**
2 found from 1500 BC
- **God hardened Pharoah's heart**





Exodus 14:10-14 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

Israel's Response to Egyptian Military

- Fear
- Cried to Moses
- Are there no graves in Egypt?
- Better to die as slaves than as free men



Moses' Response

- Do not fear
- Stand and observe salvation of the Lord
- The Lord will fight for you



Exodus 14:15-18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.

¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”



God's Response

- Go Forward (into the sea)
- I will be honored over Pharaoh
- Egyptians will know that I am God



Exodus 14:19-23 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness *to the one*, and it gave light by night *to the other*, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

²¹ Then 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 into dry *land*, and the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.



Egyptians Pursue

- Angel moves as buffer to Egyptians
- Moses stretches rod over sea
- God's strong wind divides water
- Egyptian horsemen follow

Exodus 14:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.”

²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, *and* all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry *land* in the midst of the sea, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

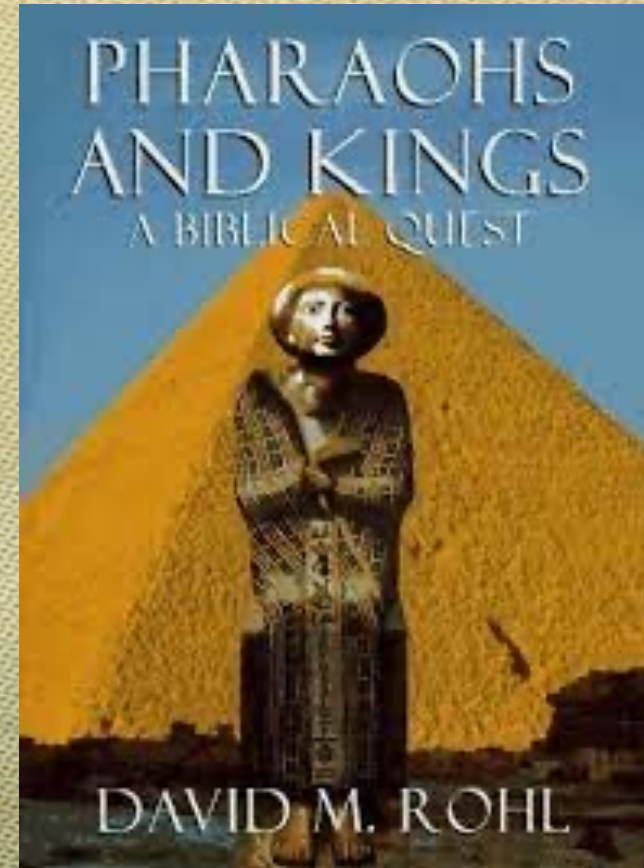
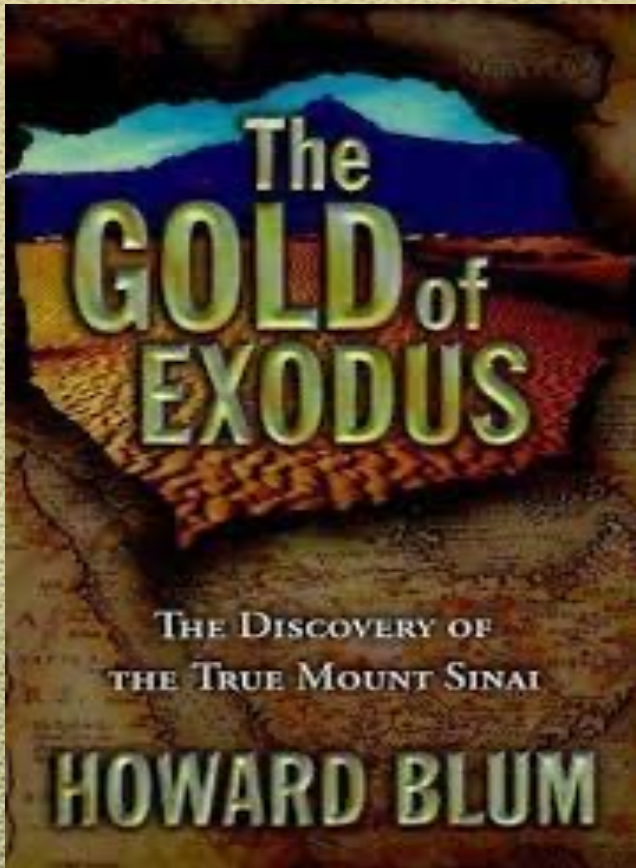
The Debacle of the Egyptians

- Egyptians dismayed by pillar of cloud and fire
- Chariot wheels sink in mud
- Conclusion – God fights for Israel
- Moses lifts his rod over the seas
- Seas return to original depth
- Every Egyptian drowned



Two Fascinating Books

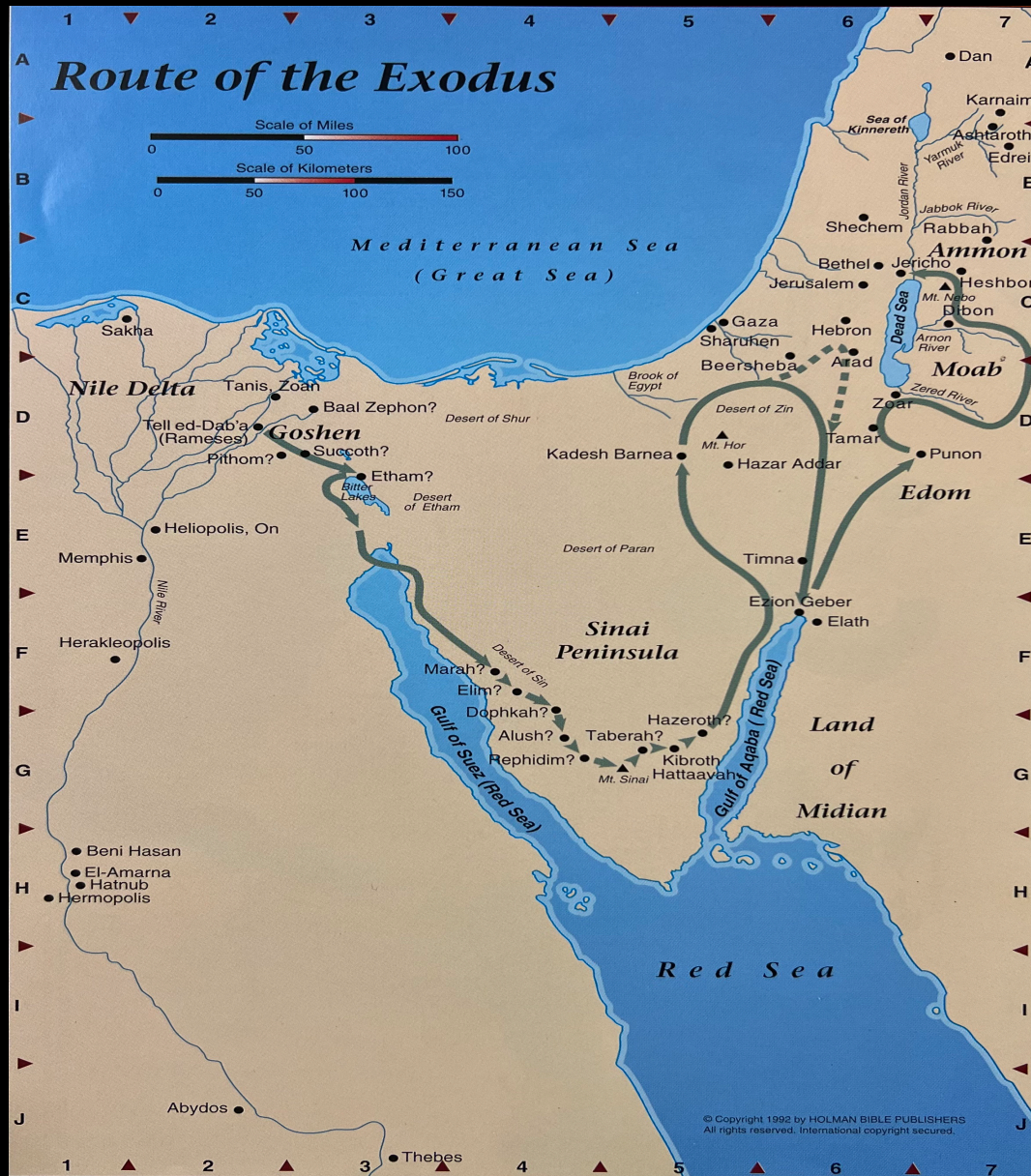
- The Gold of Exodus by Howard Blum
- Pharaohs and Kings by David Rohl



Theories Proliferate



- Blum's Theory:
 - Mt. Sinai located in Arabia
 - Crossing of sea is Gulf of Aqaba



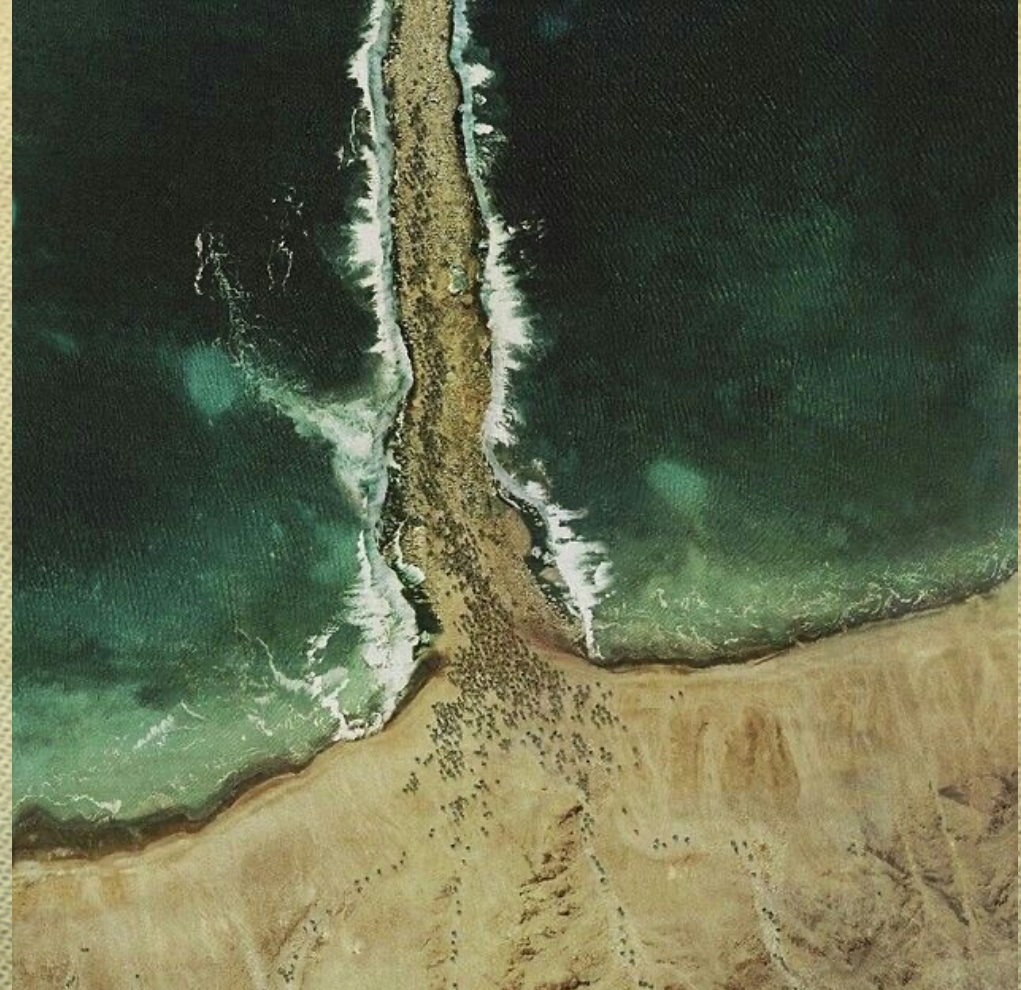
- Barbra Siverstsen's Theory:
 - Thera – Exploded around 1600 BC
 - Tsunami caused wall of water

SANTORINI



Liberal's Theory of the Sea of Reeds (Heb. *yam suph*)

Problem – Gulf of Aqaba also called *yam suph*



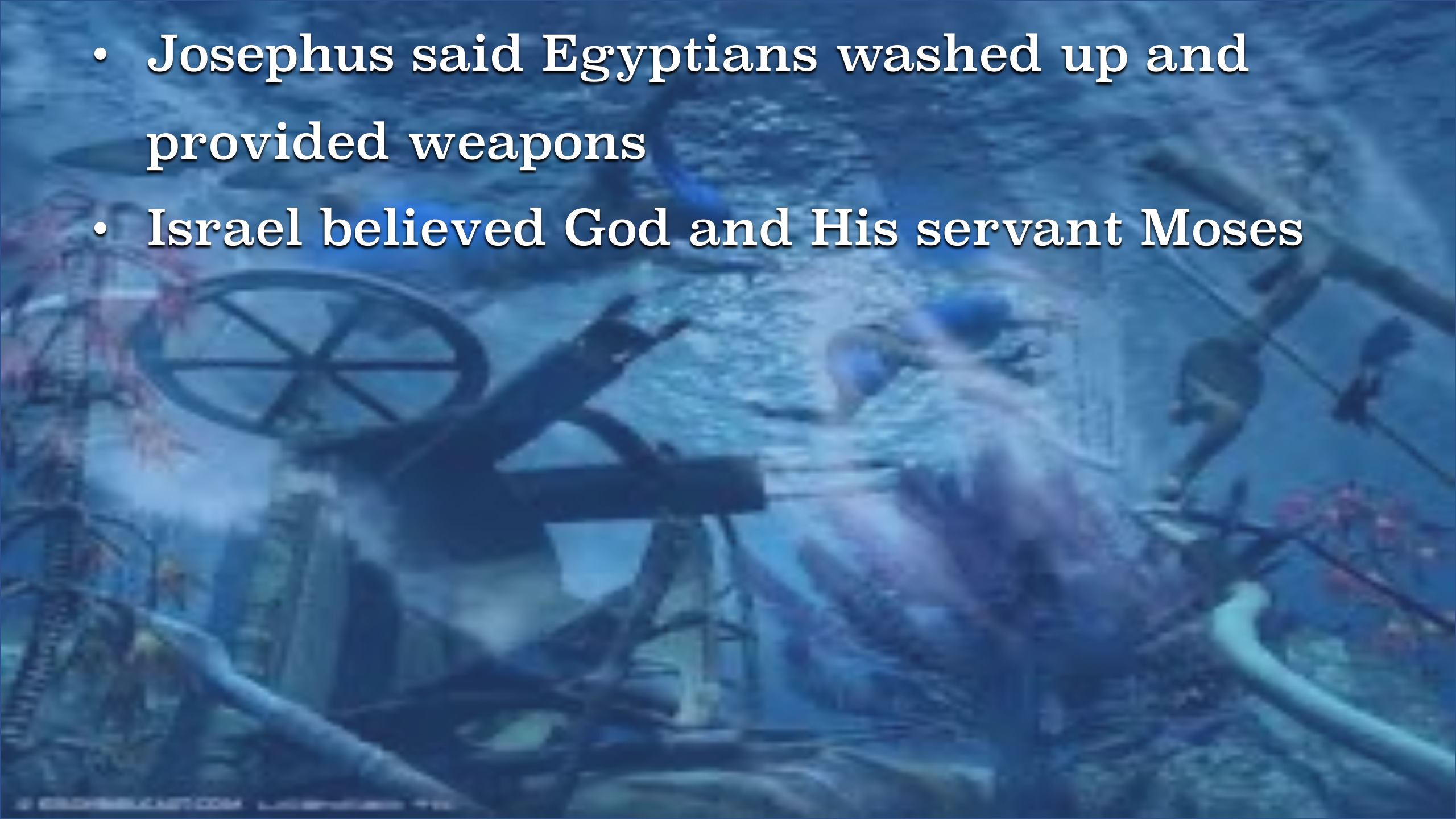


Exodus 14:29-30 (NKJV)

³⁰ So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

- Josephus said Egyptians washed up and provided weapons
- Israel believed God and His servant Moses



Exodus 15:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying:

“I will sing to the Lord,
For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider

He has thrown into the sea!

² The Lord *is* my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;
He *is* my God, and I will praise Him;
My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

Exodus 15:8; 10-11 (NKJV)

⁸ And with the blast of Your nostrils
The waters were gathered together;
The floods stood upright like a heap;
The depths congealed in the heart of
the sea.

¹⁰ You blew with Your wind,
The sea covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty
waters.

¹¹ “Who *is* like You, O Lord, among
the gods?
Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness,
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?



Exodus 15:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ You in Your mercy have led forth
The people whom You have redeemed;
You have guided *them* in Your strength
To Your holy habitation.

¹⁴ “The people will hear *and* be afraid;
Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of
Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom will be
dismayed;
The mighty men of Moab,
Trembling will take hold of them;
All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt
away.

Short Lived Faith

Exodus 15:22-27 (NKJV)

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

²⁵ So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, ²⁶ and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you.”

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there *were* twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.