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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2228 ~ The Egyptian Army Destroyed.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Have you ever been so overcome with fear that you didn't know which way to turn or what to do next? Everyone knows what it's like to be afraid of something. But for those who have a fear of harm, there is a heightened awareness of threat. Most people have an instinct to survive and when the threat is high enough, it triggers the instinct of 'fight or flight.'

The Israelites on the eastern bank of the Red Sea, after they had crossed over on the miraculous dry seabed, were in that position of not being able to either fight or flee the Egyptians that were chasing them. They had to trust God for their escape from the Egyptian army.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

This wasn't the only time in the Bible that God wiped out an entire army attacking the Israelites. In the prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled, as in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, Israel will again one day in the future, be threatened by armies from its neighbouring countries. And again, God has promised to defeat Israel's enemies in due course and give them peace in the land again.

When Pharaoh's army entered the dry seabed crossing God had made through the Red Sea, God quickly gave the army trouble with the wheels of their chariots. This threw the army into confusion about what to do next. They realised that they were fighting with Almighty God but their knowledge came too late to be of any value to them. As they attempted to retreat, God closed the walls of water on either side of the channel over them, so that none of them escaped.

When the Israelites saw the bodies of the drowned Egyptian soldiers washing up on the seashore, they feared the Lord again and they took their first step of real faith to trust in their God.

Yet the Israelites' faith in God's provision for them remained very shallow, because so far their trust had only come about by God's mighty miracles of deliverance. Faith that's based only on God's works of power and mercy is usually weak faith. Too often, we can have a faith in God only as long as He keeps 'doing good things' for us. But mature faith continues even when God seems to withdraw His blessing from us. We must learn to love God Himself and not just His blessings.

Faith honours God and God honours faith! For 10 years, missionaries Robert and Mary Moffat laboured faithfully during the 1800s in the land-locked country of Botswana, Southern Africa, without any encouragement to brighten their stay. They couldn't report a single convert and finally, the directors of their mission board began to question the wisdom of them continuing the work there.

The thought of leaving their post brought great grief to this devoted couple, as they felt sure that God was in their labours and that one day, they would see people turn to Christ in due season. They stayed and for another year or two, spiritual darkness continued to reign over the people.

One day, a friend in England sent word to the Moffats that she wanted to mail them a gift and she asked what they would like. Trusting that in time the Lord would bless their work, Mrs Moffat replied, "Send us a communion set; I'm sure it will soon be needed."

God honoured Mrs Moffat's faith. The Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of the villagers and soon, a little group of 6 converts were united to form the first Christian church in that land. The communion set from England was delayed in the mail, but on the very day before the first Lord's Supper that the Moffets held, the set arrived.

The Israelites' passage through the Red Sea is an example of their deliverance from the kingdom of this world and their transition into the kingdom of God with a new identity as God's people. The Christian life too, is more than just deliverance from spiritual bondage but it's also a passage to a new abiding life in Christ.

Moses and the Israelites praised God for delivering them from the Egyptians with a song listed in Exodus, Chapter 15. Moses' sister, Miriam, also sang: "Sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"

Moses then led the Israelites away from the Red Sea and into the wilderness, where they faced a test of their faith. Strange as it may seem, historians cannot tell us which of Egypt's pharaohs was the one who refused to cooperate with Moses, and kept changing his mind about letting God's people go to worship Him.

Because scholars are sceptical of any Biblical records that they can't find physical evidence for, in recent years, archaeologists have searched for anything that might help them prove or disprove the Biblical account of the Red Sea crossing. How deep was the water of the Red Sea 3,400 years ago? We cannot tell but if it had been shallow enough, some of the Israelites no doubt would have started wading or swimming across it.

It's claimed that there is a very deep trough about a mile deep in the Gulf of Aqaba, which is on the right hand extension of the Red Sea beside the Sinai Peninsula. However, in the middle section of the Gulf of Aqaba, there's a large raised and level plateau without any rocks or large areas of coral. This area is covered by sand or silt and not mud. This would have been an ideal location for the Israelites to cross over to the land of Midian in northwest Arabia. Close to both shores of this plateau, there've been found coral shapes, some of which are growing at 90-degree angles to itself. The timber in the four and six-spoke chariot wheels and axles used by the Egyptians at that time, would have allowed coral to grow onto it, and this would have given the coral the ability to grow into circles and right-angle shapes that can be seen.

A chariot wheel has also been found intact because the metallic coating prevented any coral growing onto it. Of course, with local laws allowing only photographs to be taken but no removal of objects from the Red Sea to test them in a laboratory, that's as far as the underwater researchers can go.

When Moses was originally living in Midian, minding his father-in-law's sheep, he saw a burning bush at Mt Horeb. This mountain was later known as Mt Sinai but it wasn't located in the Sinai Peninsula. Researchers have looked at many mountains, trying to determine which mountain was the real Mt Sinai but only the one in Midian qualifies. God told Moses that the Israelites would worship Him on that mountain.

Of course, for some people, no amount of research will convince them that what the Bible says is true or that it should be accepted by faith. This can be regarded as a hardness of heart, just as Pharaoh had. A hardened heart can dull a person's ability to perceive and understand God's revelations. Anyone's heart can harden, even "faithful Christians". Remember the time just as Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem before His crucifixion? The Samaritans wouldn't let Him stay in their village because He was planning to go to Jerusalem.

In Luke, Chapter 9, James and John asked if Jesus wanted them to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans. But Jesus rebuked them and He said that He'd come to save lives and not to destroy them. When we face some new difficulty in our lives, our hearts often fill with fear and concern. We need to remember the many times God has graciously provided for us in our times of need, but also what He's told us: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Continual sin causes hearts to grow hard, especially when the person remains unrepentant. In 1 John, Chapter 1, it says: "If we confess our sins, [Jesus] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins." However, if we don't confess our sins, they build up and have a numbing effect on the conscience, making it difficult to discern what is right or wrong from God's perspective. This type of sinful hardening of the heart results in a '[seared conscience](#)' that Paul talks about in [1Timothy, Chapter 4](#).

Paul says: "The Spirit says clearly that some people will abandon the faith in later times; they will obey lying spirits and follow the teachings of demons. Such teachings are spread by deceitful liars, whose consciences are dead, as if burnt by a hot iron." Scripture makes it clear that if we relentlessly continue to engage in sin, there will come a time when God will give us over to our 'debased mind' and let us have our own way.

The root of Pharaoh's hard-heartedness was his pride and arrogance. Even in the face of tremendous proofs and witnessing God's powerful hand at work, Pharaoh's hardened heart caused him to deny the sovereignty of the one and only true God. When we're inclined to do things the way that we want, thinking we can 'go it on our own', it would be wise to recall what King Solomon taught us in Proverbs, Chapter 14: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

So then, what is the cure for a heart condition like this? Firstly, we need to recognise the effect that the spiritual darkness has on us. God will help us to see our heart's condition when we earnestly ask Him these words from Psalm 139: "Search me O God, and know my heart ... see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." God can heal any heart once we recognise our disobedience and repent of our sins. But true repentance is more than simply a temporary determination to resolve to do better than we have in the past. Repentance brings about within us a changed life that seeks God's will.

If we're to live life to the fullest, as God intended, we need to study and obey God's written Word, which not only keeps a heart soft and pure, but allows us to be blessed in whatever we do. But we need to remember that no one is immune from trials here on earth. Rather than let the setbacks and disappointments of life make us discouraged and harden our hearts, consider that those very trials can strengthen our faith as we persevere in prayer.

As Paul encouraged the Romans in Chapter 5 of the book of Romans: "But we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

May we always be aware of whether or not our heart is open to the Lord or if it's becoming hardened like a stone. Let us repent of our hardness of heart, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew us in our faith in the Lord and give us a love towards our fellow Christians, neighbours and enemies.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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