

## **THE PASSAGE THROUGH THE RED SEA**

Moses, also, had listened to the call of GOD to do some brave, courageous things - because they were the right things to do in order that the people of Israel, the Jews, would be allowed to leave Egypt, to worship their one GOD instead of the scores of gods of the Egyptians. But Pharaoh - a kind of King - did not want to treat these slave people in a special way. He wanted all the power over everything. GOD sent Moses again and again and again to Pharaoh, saying to him these same words each time: the Lord says LET MY PEOPLE GO. Pharaoh would say NO, Moses would say if you DON'T, something terrible is going to happen. After it happened, he would come back, and try again... Here's what happened:

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! God turned the sea of water into blood.

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! God made frogs appear everywhere... in tubs, in pitchers, in cups, on floors, on chairs, in beds.

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh still said: NO!!! God released gnats and fruit flies and no see-ums everywhere to get in your eyes and ears and mouth. Yuck!

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! God sent swarms of flies that make the sky black!

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! God sent a disease that killed all of the livestock: the cows and goats for milk, the oxen for pulling plows, the horses for riding, the camels for carrying heavy loads.... they all died!

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! Then God sent oozy pussy boils on everybody. EEEEEUUUUU, that's gross!

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! .So God sent hail that smashed all the grain so they had no rice or wheat to make bread; he sent locusts to eat up the trees and the straw and wood in houses.

Moses said: LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!! And Pharaoh said: NO!!! Finally Moses said, if you don't let my people go, our GOD will kill every first child of every human and every animal (and Pharaoh only had one child)... this is your last chance. Pharaoh STILL said no. An angel told Moses how to protect the Jewish families from this curse.... and every first child of every Egyptian person or animal died that night.... even Pharaoh's son. So Pharaoh said GET OUT OF HERE..... ALL YOU HEBREWS. LEAVE WITH YOUR POWERFUL GOD AND LEAVE US ALONE. So very quickly, all the Jews got together and started to leave. Moses knew that Pharaoh would try to stop them. So, even though they moved as fast as they could, Pharaoh went into a rage and got all of his armies together with whatever animals and weapons they had to follow the Hebrews and

kill them.... every one! No one was going to beat Pharaoh or embarrass him! The Hebrews traveled as fast as they could and ended up at a dead end.... the Red Sea!! It was deep and wide.... they had no boats. Nobody could swim. It looked like Pharaoh was going to win after all and they all would be killed or drown trying to run away.

GOD told Moses: hit the water with your walking stick. It will part and you will go through it.... although that seemed impossible to Moses (well, everything that GOD had done through Moses seemed pretty impossible), he did what GOD said. The earth shook. The water churned and bubbled and slapped around in huge, towering waves... and then the waves moved to the left and to the right..... and the sea floor immediately got dry!!!! NO MUD!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Moses called to everyone.... Hurry.... go to the other side. Don't look back, make sure your families are with you..... **JUST KEEP GOING QUICKLY.** And they did exactly that. Moses scurried across the sea bed too..... and just as he climbed up the bank, he saw Pharaoh and soldiers and bumpy horses and chariots and lances and swords and a noisy mob running toward the bank.... they were half way across when, upon GODs command, Moses struck the bank of the river..... and the waves which had become walls came tumbling down in an horrible, deafening crash. Every Egyptian soldier and animal drowned. GOD had saved his people again and kept his promise.