

Faith Tested in the Desert

Exodus 12:31-42, 13:17-22;

14:5-14, James 1:2

Life of Moses

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers,
whenever you face trials of many
kinds* **James 1:2**

*because you know that the testing
of your faith develops
perseverance. Perseverance must
finish its work so that you may be
mature and complete, not lacking
anything.* **James 1:3-4**

*During the night Pharaoh
summoned Moses and Aaron and
said, "Up! Leave my people, you
and the Israelites! Go, worship the
Lord as you have requested. Take
your flocks and herds, as you have
said, and go. And also bless me."*
Exodus 12:32

The Israelites left with Egyptian wealth

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:35-36

The Israelites took the bones of Joseph

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." **Exodus 13:19**

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in

*a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. **Exodus 13:21***

*Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel had fallen on them. He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night. **Psalms 105:38-39***

*The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. **Exodus 14:9***

*As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. **Exodus 14:10***

They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?”
Exodus 14:11

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:13-14

*Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. **Exodus 14:21***

Two Kinds of Miracles in the Bible

- 1. Miracles of intervention—**
Jesus walking on the water,

Feeding the 5000, Jesus' resurrection from the dead

2. Miracles of timing

—Acts 16, Paul and Silas in prison, and an earthquake releases them

—Elijah calling for rain in the drought

And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Exodus 14:31

Four Lessons to think about from trials in our lives.

1. Obedience sometimes produces trial.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33**

2. Trials always require trust.

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm ...The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” **Exodus 14:13-14**

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

3. Trust almost always involves risk.

Four Lessons to think about from trials in our lives.

4. Risk with God produces victory.

*“I will sing to the LORD, for he is
highly exalted. The horse and its
rider he has hurled into the sea.*

Exodus 15:1