

The Return of Jesus:

A Love Story

THE STORY OF THE EXODUS HAS ALL OF THE MARKINGS OF A MAN PURSUING HIS POTENTIAL BRIDE....

1. GOD _____ OFF.

You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. ³But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. ⁵And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."
Exodus 7:2-6 (NIV)

2. GOD _____ HIS _____.

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.⁹The 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.

¹⁰As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. ¹¹They 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?¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"
Exodus 14: 5-12 (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Moses, ²"Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.³ Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this.
Exodus 14:1-4 (NLT)

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.¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."
Exodus 14: 13-14 (NLT)

And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of 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 (NLT)

*Who among the gods
is like you, Lord?*

*Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?*

¹² *“You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.*

¹³ *In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.*

*In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.*

¹⁴ *The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.*

¹⁵ *The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will meltaway;*

¹⁶ *terror and dread will fall on them.*

*By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, Lord,
until the people you bought pass by.*

¹⁷ *You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.*

¹⁸ *“The Lord reigns
for ever and ever.”*

Exodus 15:11-18 (NLT)

3. GOD _____.

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Exodus 16:2-3 (NLT)

Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰ *While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.*

¹¹ *The Lord said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”*

Exodus 16:9-12 (NLT)

*That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.
Exodus 16:13-15 (NLT)*

*The people of Israel called the bread manna.
Exodus 16:31 (NLT)*

*The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."
Exodus 17:1-2 (NLT)*

*But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"
Exodus 17:3 (NLT)*

*The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."
Exodus 17:5-6 (NLT)*

*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.
1 Corinthians 10:2-4 (NLT)*

*The Lord spread a cloud above them as a covering
and gave them a great fire to light the darkness.
⁴⁰ They asked for meat, and he sent them quail;
he satisfied their hunger with manna—bread from heaven.
⁴¹ He split open a rock, and water gushed out
to form a river through the dry wasteland.
Psalm 105:39-41 (NIV)*