

## **THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND THE RED SEA**

Rev. Frederick Schnarr

The story of the escape of the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt is filled with many amazing events and dramatic miracles.

After the ten plagues, Pharaoh decided to let the Children of Israel go. The Egyptians were so relieved to see them go that they gave them all kinds of food, clothing and jewels.

So the Children of Israel all left Egypt and marched to the shores of the Red Sea. While camped by the sea, they heard a thundering noise. Pharaoh, with his great army of horse-drawn chariots, was chasing them to bring them back into slavery in Egypt!

Then the Lord made two miracles happen very quickly. A pillar of cloud came between the Children of Israel and the Egyptians, so that Pharaoh could not see the Israelitish camp. He also could not see that the waters of the Red Sea had parted leaving dry ground, and the Children of Israel were escaping through the very middle of the sea.

When Pharaoh and his army did see what was happening, they chased after the Children of Israel, but it was too late. The wall of water that the Lord had held up to make a path suddenly collapsed and drowned all the Egyptian soldiers.

So the Children of Israel were finally freed from Egyptian slavery. As they looked at the waters of the Red Sea, where the Egyptians had disappeared, the people broke out into a song of thanksgiving to the Lord for saving them. Imagine the sound of hundreds of thousands of voices singing at one time, with the words echoing across the water!

Sometimes false, ugly things attack us for a time, and then seem to vanish, like the Egyptian army. Let us remember that it is the Lord who overcomes these bad things. We might feel like we are the ones who chase evil spirits away. But it is really the Lord who fights for us and removes those who are trying to make us their slaves.

Let us remember this truth when we think of the Children of Israel all singing and dancing to praise the Lord on the far shores of the Red Sea. And let us think of what we can do in our own life to show our joy and delight in the Lord's love and protection.

Amen.