

We can't be sure who the Exodus pharaoh was. Two options are: **A.** He belonged to the 18th Dynasty and ruled in the 15th century – that is Pharaoh Amenhotep II. **B.** He belonged to the 19th Dynasty and ruled in the 13th century –being Ramses II. **13th century is sourced from Exodus 1:11** where the name Ramesses is cited for the store city the Israelites built for Pharaoh. Ramesses II was a great builder. The location of his capital is known and part of his palace there has been excavated. **15th century is sourced from 1 Kings 6:1** to date the Exodus. Solomon came to the throne in 971/970 BC. Solomon's Temple building began in the spring (the month after Passover) of 966 BC. The time period to add to this date is the 480 years that are given in 1 Kings 6:1. This goes back to the time when "the Israelites had come out of Egypt." Adding those 480 years dates the Exodus to the spring of 1446 BC.

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. (Exodus 13:17-18)

The Hebrews were not an army and had no weapons. How could they be "ready for battle"? **"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. (Ex 14:1-2)** To turn back meant they were boxed in between the desert and the sea. There was no escape except that the Lord is trusted to keep his promises. The Lord is their Leader. He directs their path and position in the desert.

The plot line of biblical salvation history is drawn by God's covenant.

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD." Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor. (Exodus 6:7-9)

Moses believed God's promises. Faith believes God whose word is true. Faith interprets the future by God's covenant not through circumstances. Discouragement is a deficit of courage. Discouragement through unbelief is Stan's strategy. After Paul says, **"we are always of good courage"** (2 Cor 5:6), he says, **"for we walk by faith, not by sight"** (2 Cor 5:7). Trust in God.

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites 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)

We have God's eternal presence. Then, a pillar of cloud by day...and by night a pillar of fire. Now, the indwelling presence of Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph's bones were in a box and Israel was boxed in! Are you cornered?

"I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." God is at work in warfare to defeat his enemies and deliver Israel by judging evil. God's judges because of his holiness, not hostility. He is patient with Egypt (430 years) as with us, to save his people from sin and bring us into freedom.

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!" So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. (Ex 14:5-9)

Pharaoh is unchanged and unrelenting, mobilizes 600 of his best chariots with a driver and archer and other chariots to pursue Israel into the sea.

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. 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? 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 14:10-12)

Israel '**looked up**' (literally: "**Behold Egypt**")

They cry out to God, which is where the story began (Ex 2:23). Do you ever feel as if you are spinning your wheels – back where you started - crying out in crisis – but not with faith in God, as if the Passover never occurred?

They protest to Moses with sarcasm. *Not enough graves in Egypt* – land of pyramid tombs and death. Israel is confused, ungrateful and insecure.

**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)

Note the use of "See" 3X. "You will **see** the salvation of God. Today you **see** Egypt. You won't **see** them again." This is an amazing statement of faith. God hadn't told Moses what he was to do or how God would save them!

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."
(Exodus 14:15-18)

Israel is hemmed in between desert and sea! **Move on! Into the sea? Yes.**

**'By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land;
but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned?'** (Hebrews 11:29)

Faith is not a leap into the dark. Faith is a step into the Light.

We are people of faith whose motto is: 'Anywhere – only forward.'

Only then does God make clear his plan for Moses to stretch out his hand and divide the waters. Our Creator is our Savior. On Galilee: ***‘They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”*** (Mark 4:41) **Jesus is the Lord of wind and waves and of sin and graves.** He achieves a far greater exodus deliverance. (Mark 9:31)

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. (14:19-20)

God kept Egypt and Israel apart. God divided them before dividing the sea.

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. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed^(b) the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. (14:21-25)

Egypt’s frantic troops and startled horses were caught in a death trap) The sea returned and Pharaoh’s army was wiped out and washed ashore. ***‘The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed...your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.’*** (Ps 77:16-19) From fear of Egypt (14:10) to fear of the Lord (14:31). **‘the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.’**

EXAMINE: Without faith it is impossible to please God. *They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea...Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. These things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.* (1 Corinthians 10:1-6)

ENCOURAGE What God brings us to He will bring us through.

I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and the number of its name. They held harps given by God and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb: **“Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”** (Rev 15:1-4)

EXPECT God’s future new creation is free from sin, death and fear.

Then I saw **“a new heaven and a new earth,”** for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, **and there was no longer any sea.** (Rev 21:1)

The sea is not water but the world society opposed to God’s salvation (Rev 17:15)