

# The Crossing

THE STORY #4 - Pastor Gary Combs - February 22, 2026 - Exodus 14:10-31

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We're continuing with part two of our series called THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything. We're on a 12-week journey through the meta-narrative of Scripture. From creation to consummation, the Bible tells one great story of a good and holy God rescuing His broken world through Jesus.

In today's message entitled **THE CROSSING**, we'll be looking at the story of how God rescued Moses and the Israelites from the Egyptians by miraculously helping them **cross** over the Red Sea on dry land. But to understand where we are in the larger story, we have to remember where we've been:

In Genesis 1-3, we saw that God made a good world and made humanity in His image. But sin entered the story. Fellowship was broken. Death spread. Yet God promised a coming Seed who would crush the serpent's head.

In Genesis 6, we saw how human wickedness multiplied until judgment came through the flood. Yet even in judgment, God showed mercy. He preserved a remnant through Noah and made a covenant promise never again to destroy the earth by flood.

In Genesis 15, we saw God make a unilateral covenant with Abram, walking the Blood Path for both God and man and setting the stage for its fulfillment in Christ's payment on the cross. We also heard God's prophetic word to Abram about his seed living as servants for 400 years in a foreign land before God would bring them out to Canaan.

Where was that foreign land? Egypt. So Abraham beget Isaac, Isaac beget Jacob, and Jacob had his name changed by God to Israel and begat 12 sons, one of whom was Joseph, who was sold into slavery in Egypt, but later became the second in command to Pharaoh. After a famine, Joseph invited his whole family, all 70 members of Israel's house to move to Egypt to the land of Goshen, where he would provide for them. Yet, after Joseph's death the Pharaoh's forgot him and the people of Israel were enslaved 400 years, just as God had said.

Now, we've come to the part of THE STORY when God promised to bring them out of Egypt. We've come to the Exodus story. And as the guys at the Bible Project have said, "the Exodus story is the most referenced story in the Bible. This story shapes the Bible's whole view of reality" (<https://bibleproject.com/podcasts/exodus-shaped-reality>).

**Trans:** But you might be asking, "That's a powerful history lesson, but what does a 3,500-year-old rescue mission have to do with my life in 2026?"

**Need:** Because the truth is, we all eventually find ourselves standing on the shore of our own 'Red Sea.' We all know what it feels like to be trapped between a past that's chasing us down and a future that looks like an impossible wall to cross over. Whether it's the shadow of a mistake you can't outrun or a crisis you can't outsmart, we all reach a point where we realize that if God doesn't move, we aren't going to make it.

**Trans:** But here's the good news: the Exodus wasn't just a miracle for the Israelites; it's a map for us. It's a pattern of how God rescues His people. If we want to understand how God saves today, we have to look to the one that this story points to...

**BODY:** In Exodus 14, Moses recorded how the LORD displayed His saving power by delivering His people through the sea, defeating their Egyptian enemies, and proving that He alone is the Redeemer who saves His covenant people. We can see how this story points to Christ as the Redeemer who saves His people. How can we see Christ in this story as the Redeemer who saves His people? Let's look at **three pictures** in this text that reveal Christ as our ultimate Redeemer.

**Text:** Exodus 14:10-31 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." <sup>15</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup> Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." <sup>19</sup> Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup> coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>24</sup> And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, <sup>25</sup> clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." <sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. <sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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## THREE PICTURES THAT POINT TO CHRIST AS OUR REDEEMER:

### 1. PICTURE 1: Christ the perfect Mediator.

**EXP:** (10-14) Israel panics. They accuse Moses. But Moses stands between the people and God. He says: "Fear not... The LORD will fight for you." (13-14) Moses mediates reassurance and deliverance.

"**Feared greatly**" (10) (אָרַע, *yārē'*) - to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared; terrify

"**Cried out**" (10) (קָרָע, *qārā'*) - to cry, cry out, call, cry for help

"**Leave us alone**" (12) (הִדַּל, *hādāl*) - leave (off), let alone..

"**Fear not**" (13) - same word from verse 10.

"**Stand firm**" (13) (יָצַב, *yāṣab*) - to place, set, stand, set or station oneself.

"**See the salvation**" (13) (יִשׁוּעָה, *yēšû'â*) - salvation, deliverance

"**Egyptians ... you shall never see again**" (13) (רָאָה, *rā'â*) - to see, look at, inspect, perceive, consider

"**The LORD will fight for you**" (14) (לָחָם, *lāḥam*) - to fight, do battle, make war

"**You have only to be silent**" (14) (שָׁרַח, *ḥāraš*) - rest, keep silence, be silent, "Hold your peace." (KJV).

**ARG:** **Jesus is our one and only mediator.**

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

Yet Moses is only a shadow. He comforts, but he cannot change hearts. He stretches out a staff, but Christ stretches out His hands on a cross. For Jesus is our...

**Jesus is our perfect ("more excellent") mediator.**

Hebrews 8:6 (ESV) But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

**ILL:** Have you ever needed an attorney, an advocate? It's not something you would wish for, but if you're in trouble with the law, then you're happy to have a good one to represent you. Jesus is our Advocate!

**APP:** When the "enemy" (Satan) reminds you of your past, you don't have to argue your own case. You have a Mediator who says, "Fear not. Stand firm. I've already paid for this."

### 2. PICTURE 2: Christ the only Way.

**EXP:** (15-22) God made a way where there was no way. The sea parts. There is only one path, through the middle. Not around it. Not over it. Through it.

"**Stretch out your hand over the sea**" (16) (נָטָה, *nāṭâ*) - to stretch out, extend, stretch, offer

"**Go through the sea on dry ground**" (16) (יָבֵשׁ, *yabāšâ*) - dry land, dry ground.

There are many proposed routes, but archeologist, Steve Rudd, proposes the crossing at the Straits of Tiran, which route across is about 10 miles wide and an average of 164 feet deep, with a short deeper section of about 820 feet deep. This is a shallow crossing compared to the Red Sea's maximum depth of 6,070 feet



"**I will harden the hearts**" (17) (קָרַח, *ḥāraq*) - to harden. After the first 5 plagues (blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock), Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but after the 6th (boils), we read "The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart" (Ex. 9:8–12). Some link this to Romans 1:24, 26, and 28, where Paul says that because of humanity's persistent rejection of God, He "**gave them over**" to their own sinful desires. A classic illustration (often attributed to Origen) is that the same sun that **melts butter** also **hardens clay**.

"**I will get glory over Pharaoh**" (17) (כָּבַד, *kābād*) - be honoured, gain glory.

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“Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD” (18) (עִדָּה, *yāda*) - to know, learn to know; to perceive

“Angel of God” (19) (מַלְאָךְ, *mal'āk*) - messenger, angel. Many see this as a Christophany. Jonathan Edwards explicitly argued that the “Angel of the LORD” who led Israel in the wilderness was Christ.

“Pillar of cloud” (19) (עַנַּן, *ānān*) - a cloud (as covering the sky), the nimbus or thunder-cloud

“Lit up the night” (20) (אֹר, *'ôr*) - to be or become light, shine

“The LORD drove the sea back” (21) (יָלַק, *yālak*) - to lead, bring, lead away, carry, cause to walk

“Strong east wind” (21) (רוּחַ, *rûah*) - wind, breath, mind, spirit

“All night” (21) (לַיִל, *layil*) - all night. Why all night? Conservative estimates are that at least 2.5 million crossed that night. Exodus 12:37 “six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.”

“The waters being a wall to them” (22) (חֹמַת, *hômâ*) - a wall of protection

**ARG:** When Thomas asked, “How can we know the way?” Jesus answered:

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**ILL:** Look at the map again. There was no other way out, but through the Red Sea. Mountains to the North, sea to the East and South, and the Egyptian army East. God was the only way out.



**APP:** Notice that God did not remove the sea. He made a way through it. At the cross, God did not remove judgment. Christ went through it for us. Salvation is not found in self-effort or alternative routes. You must step forward in faith through Christ alone.

### 3. PICTURE 3: Christ the risen Savior.

**EXP:** (23-31) The “morning watch” (24) is the turning point. At dawn, the enemies are defeated and the people emerge on the other side as a new nation. They were “baptized” into a new life. They left their slavery in the depths of the sea. Just as the risen Savior left his grave clothes in the tomb!

“All Pharaoh's horses” (23) (סוּס, *sûs*) - horses, chariot horses

“Pillar of fire” (24) (אֵשׁ, *'ēš*) - fire, flames; supernatural fire (accompanying theophany)

“Threw the Egyptian forces into a panic” (24) (חָמַם, *hāmam*) - to move noisily, confuse, make a noise, discomfit, break, consume, crush, destroy, trouble, vex

“Clogging their chariot wheels” (25) (סוּר, *sûr*) - to cause to turn aside, cause to depart, remove, take away, put away, depose. God made their wheels get stuck and turn aside.

“The LORD threw the Egyptians into ...the sea” (27) (נָעַר, *nā'ar*) - to overthrow, toss up and down.

“The LORD saved Israel” (30) (יָשַׁע, *yāša*) - to save, be saved, be delivered

“Israel saw the Egyptians dead” (30) (מוֹת, *mût*) - to die, kill, have one executed

“Israel saw the great power” (31) (יָד, *yād*) - a hand (indicating power, means, direction, etc.) work, power

“Feared the LORD” (31) - same word as before for fear

“Believed in the LORD” (31) (אָמַן, *'āman*) - to stand firm, to trust, to be certain, to believe in

**ARG:** Paul saw Christ as being present in the cloud and the Rock that “followed them.”

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

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**Just as the Egyptians were “swallowed up,” so death was in Christ’s resurrection victory!**

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (ESV) “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ILL:** Today we witness the best illustration for this in baptism. The Red Sea crossing is a foreshadowing of believer’s baptism. It is a picture of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection in which we follow as a step of obedience after believing.

**APP:** Because Christ is risen, your greatest enemy, death, is defeated. You don’t just escape slavery to sin; you step into a new life.

**CONCLUSION:** The Creation showed us God’s good design and man’s Fall. The Catastrophe of the Flood showed us our ruin and God’s Ark. The Covenant showed us God’s promise and Christ’s fulfillment. Now, the Crossing shows us God’s power to save.

But don’t miss this: The Exodus is not the ultimate rescue story. It’s a preview. A picture.

Israel was delivered from Pharaoh, but they would still struggle with sin.

They crossed a sea, but they would still wander in the wilderness.

They saw dead enemies on the shore, but death itself still reigned.

That’s why we need a greater Exodus.

On another dark night, the true and better Moses stretched out His hands, not over a sea, but on a cross.

At another dawn, not beside a shoreline but outside a borrowed tomb, the stone was rolled away.

And when Jesus walked out alive — sin, death, and Satan — was defeated forever.

So here’s the question: Are you still standing on the shore in fear? Or have you stepped forward by faith into Christ?

The people feared greatly in verse 10. But by verse 31, they feared the LORD and believed.

That’s the goal of every rescue story in Scripture. That’s the goal of THE STORY.

That we would see His mighty deliverance through our Redeemer, Jesus... and believe.

Let’s pray.