Doing and Saying – a Christian Pilgrimage

Inspiration and an invitation – Week 14

Further understanding the bible, and then, testing the Christian hypothesis.

Day 92: Was the Bible Inspired (part 4)?

Collectors, interpreters/translators, editors, and copiers can have a profound effect on what we read.

Translators: If you compare Matthew 5:3-11 from a literal translation (such as the NRSV) with a paraphrase (such as the Message bible) you can get a very different understanding. Paraphrases are good for giving different insights, but they are the translators' interpretation of the original meaning and can bind you to that interpretation – while a literal translation doesn't interpret, but says 'here are the words – you interpret.' Even there, though, some literal translations are more literal than others. If you compare the NRSV with the ESV, the NRSV will say 'humankind' vs 'mankind', and 'brothers and sisters' instead of 'brothers'. In these instances, the ESV is more literally faithful to the original, while the NRSV is intentionally trying to emphasize that this applies to both men and women, not just men. By the way, the "Red Sea" in Exodus chapters 13 & 14 is probably a mis-translation – the original Hebrew documents are thought to say "Reed Sea".

Editors: Editing can have a profound effect on what is read. Sometimes, editors have brought different sources in and placed them side by side. For example, if you compare Genesis 1:1 to 2:3 against Genesis 2:4 to 2:23, you get very different accounts of creation – one on a cosmological scale, the other on a human scale. Sometimes, editors have interleaved differing accounts together. For example, read through the samples from scripture contained in the Appendix attached to this week.

- 1st: 14:1-4, 8-10, 15-18, 21-23, 26, 28-29;
- 2nd: 13:20-22, 14:5-6, 13-14,19b-20, 24-25b, 27,30-31, 15:20-21;
- 3rd: 13:17-19, 14:5a, 7, 11-12, 19a, 25a;
- 4th: 15:1-19.
- Full: Exodus 13:17-15:21

Embedded in the one story can be found four versions, edited together in quite an astounding way.

Copiers don't usually have major effects on the bible other than grammar, but they can. The Wicked Bible, sometimes called the Adulterous Bible or the Sinners' Bible, was an edition of the Bible published in 1631, meant to be a reprint of the King James Bible. The name is derived due to Exodus 20:14, where the word "not" was omitted – which drastically changes the meaning.

Collectors decide what is in the collection and what is not. This was historically done by the broad community, with the result that what was 'in' and what was 'out' was rather vague. Christian and Jewish leaders wrestled with this so that the Jewish scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) became fixed in the 100's (the second century) AD., while the Christian leaders added their own writings (the New Testament) and fixed what we know as the bible in the 300's (the 4th century) AD. Excluded were documents such as the Gospel of Thomas, The Acts of Pilate, the Gospel of Peter, the Apocalypse of Peter, and the Gospel of Mary. Documents were usually excluded because it was felt they were not accurate as to what they claimed, or the

authours weren't close enough to Jesus and his apostles (the epistles of Clement of Rome, for example, while very instructive and worthy, were left out). Though I stated the bible became 'fixed' in the 4th century, it has still been (and continues to be) re-translated and adjusted. For example, there are differences in the bible between Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant versions – for a quick summary and explanation, you may wish to refer to https://www.catholicenquiry.com/topics-faq/scripture/frequently-asked-questions/284-why-are-there-differences-between-the-protestant-catholic-and-orthodox-bibles.

Next, we shall discuss the final stage of Inspiration.

How would each of Collectors, interpreters/translators, editors, and copiers be inspired by God?

Share your thoughts with your others you trust.

Day 93: Was the Bible Inspired (part 5)?

The final part of Biblical Inspiration involves the Reader. Every reader approaches life with their own experiences-to-date, understandings, filters, assumptions, etc., and this is no different when people approach the bible. The early church recognized the importance of people being open to God in reading the bible and emphasized ongoing and constant reading throughout the day, along with ongoing prayer.

I don't have time for that.

You may not! I suggest though that if you really want to understand the foundational documents of Christians, that you set aside 30 minutes each day to read it. Maybe start with the book of Luke and then Acts and the following letters (which describe the early Christian community struggling to follow the Way of Christ), the other three gospels, then the Old Testament books, and finally the Book of Revelation (which can be thought of 'the bible as a graphic novel'). Take an intentional approach – ask God to open your heart and mind to what you are going to read, and then after you have read it, spend the rest of your day letting yourself ruminate on it.

30 minutes a day is a lot.

Yes. If you truly want to get to know the bible, you may have to give up some television watching or being on the internet, or a different activity. I encourage you to give it a try – I think as you dig into it, you'll find it fascinating. As you read, note the differences and similarities between, for example, the four gospels, or between Chronicles and Kings.

I encourage you to talk to Jesus before and after you read, asking Him to open your mind and heart to His presence in what you read. Lectio Divina (Day 94) may be especially helpful for that.

For an entertaining overview of the bible (which, of course, has its own inconsistencies and contradictions against some of what I've explained so far) you may find *Don't know much about the Bible,* by Kenneth C. Davis, useful (though the scholarship is a little dated as it was published 30 years ago). For an excellent commentary on the bible, especially the New Testament, I recommend *The Bible for Everyone* (a 35-Volume Set), by: N.T. Wright and John Goldingay.

How would you describe the bible as inspired?

Share your answers with others whom you trust.

Day 94: Was the Bible Inspired (part 6)?

An ancient practice of bible reading called 'lectio divina' (Latin for 'divine reading') involves prayerfully reading the same set of scripture 3 times – after the 1st time, see what word or phrase jumps out at you, and ponder that. After the 2nd time of reading the same passage, ponder what that word or phrase may mean to your life. After the 3rd time of reading the same passage and reflecting on that word or phrase, ponder what Christ may be asking you to do in response.

For a good overview of lectio divina, see https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/253799/1-What-is-Lectio-Divina.pdf.

The power of Lectio Divina is that you not only are reading the bible, but opening yourself up to input from the divine, from Christ Himself.

So yes, the Bible is inspired by God. God inspired:

1.) the authors,
2.) the receptive community,
3.) the collectors, copiers, translators, the editors, and finally,
4.) God inspires the reader.

The bible is very much an ongoing communication between God and those who believe, the family of God. And to answer your original question, inconsistencies can arise because of differences of context, understanding, and intent, amongst any of the four stages mentioned above.

What do you think of a book which intends the reader to communicate not with the author(s), but through the author to something else (in this case, God)? Are there books other than the bible which make that claim?

Share your answers with others whom you trust.

Day 95: Was the Bible Inspired (part 7)?

So, the bible is actually a library which was written over a period of 1500 years or so by multiple people in many different genres. Their writings had to be accepted by different communities and then from those communities, brought into one collection by a variety of collectors, meanwhile going through various episodes of copying, editing, and translating. Some writings were discarded, or never were accepted by their respective community to start with.

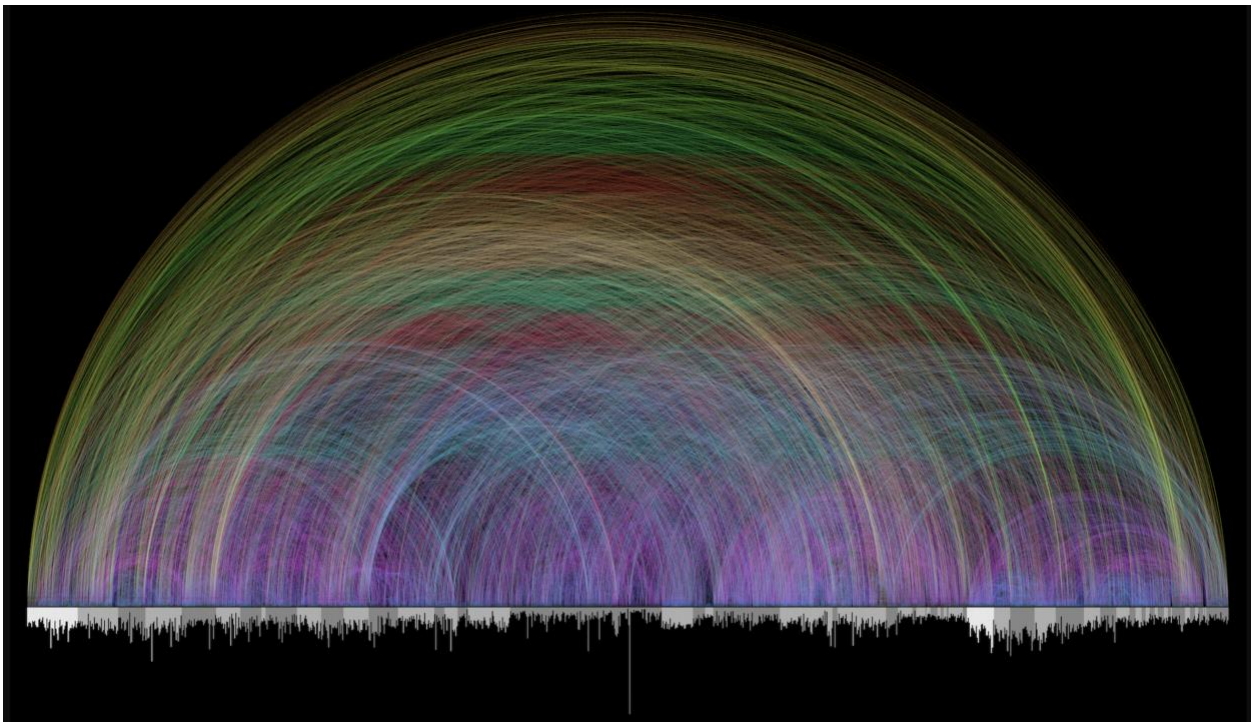
Indeed! You've got it, with the possible misconception that there is "one bible." The Roman Catholic version has additional writings compared to bibles which follow what you can call 'the 'Protestant' tradition', and Orthodox bibles are different yet again. For example, the Anglican church officially recognizes the Protestant collection, with the Roman Catholic additions brought into a seldom-referenced section known as 'The Apocrypha' ('the hidden') or 'Deutero-canonical' ('of the second canon') books. As well, there are many different interpretations currently published – if you read some of Jesus's sayings from Matthew chapter 5 using a literal translation like the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) or .Net bible (Netbible.org), you may get a much different understanding than reading the same sayings from the Message bible, which is paraphrased.

And then the final interpretation is by the reader.

Yes. With God's help, hopefully.

And you say all that was inspired by God?

Yes I do. What may be the most miraculous part of it all is how coherent the bible is, despite such convoluted origins. The bible broadly tells one story, the Great Story, of God creating us, rescuing us, and restoring us: His Great Project. It all points to one thing. The second miraculous part may be how self-referencing it is. Though it was written over very many generations, as individual scrolls, without the internet or any human plan for it before it was created, the bible is remarkable in how self-referencing and reinforcing it is – almost as if, indeed, there *was* an overall plan. Here is a picture of the cross-references in the bible:



The bar graph that runs along the bottom represents all of the chapters in the Bible. Books alternate in colour between white and light grey. The length of each bar denotes the number of verses in the chapter. Each of the 63,779 cross references found in the Bible is depicted by a single arc – the color corresponds to the distance between the two chapters, creating a rainbow-like effect. The long bar in the middle of the picture is Psalm 119.

For further information on this picture, see https://chrisharrison.net/index.php/Visualizations/BibleViz.

Christians argue over how portions of the bible should be interpreted and the actual meanings of many parts of it – but they all recognize it as authoritative for the community, a foundational document.

In your own mind, how was the bible inspired by God? How is it not?

Share your answers with others whom you trust.

Day 96: The place of the Bible

So you say the Bible is needed for salvation.

No.

What?

The Bible *contains* everything needed for salvation. It is authoritative, but it is not salvation.

What is needed for salvation then?

A relationship with Jesus the Christ. The entire bible points to Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

I thought you said the entire point of the Bible was to love God and love our neighbour.

Indeed. Jesus said "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."– or as Rabbi Hillel (1st century B.C.) put it, *"What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary; go and learn it."* (And there's a lot of commentary!)

I'm confused.

Christians sometimes get into silly arguments:

- "scripture alone (sola scriptura)!".
- "No, we are saved by faith alone!"
- "You're both wrong – it's through the church universal/catholic." (catholic is an old term for universal by the way – you may have heard of the 'Roman Catholic Church')

Which is the ultimate way for salvation?

The reality is that Christ is the way – the only way. Scripture (the bible) is about loving God and our neighbour, and it points to Christ. Faith needs to be in Christ. The church needs to be pointing to Christ and doing Christ's will. Christianity isn't about a book, a belief, or a club – it is about a living relationship with Christ. The book, the belief, and the club are all to generate, sustain, and live out that relationship. We are 'the people of the person' – the person of Jesus the Christ. That relationship is built on love – loving God and loving your neighbour. And you are invited in. But it will cost you.

How could Christ be the way?

Share your answers with others whom you trust.

Day 97: You are invited in

Do you truly want to know and live by the truth?

Yes.

Then you owe it to yourself to scientifically investigate Christianity – not reject it just because that's the popular thing to do. On one hand, you have nothing to lose (as suggested on Day 1). On the other hand, if you accept the truth of Christianity, you will lose everything – you will lose your certainty that life is meaningless, that your death means total extinction, that morality, good and evil, and the supernatural are all illusions, and that you are just a bunch of molecules arranged by chance. You will lose the understanding of life that you presently hold. You may even find joy. Are you willing to try?

Is that what you call "salvation?" This losing of my world paradigm?

That *is* part of it, yes – you are saved from that understanding and given what we feel is a much more profound, accurate, and realistic understanding of life, the universe, and everything ☺. There is another aspect of salvation which is just as important, however.

Oh?

You will be saved from the belief that you are all alone, not loved by anything except yourself and perhaps a few others, that you mean nothing and are worth nothing, and that you will die at the end of your meaningless life, to be forgotten and, to the universe, as if you never were. You will be saved, in other words, from not knowing that you are loved – loved beyond measure, loved even to going through the most degrading, humiliating, and painful death possible, for you, by the Being Which Created You – created you to know you, to celebrate life with you, to love you. You will be saved from total loneliness to total acceptance. You will be saved into the life and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, through a full and ever-growing relationship with Him. You shall be saved from harm and evil, into goodness and life. You will become a Person Of The Person – a Little Christ – a One Who Belongs.

I'm not alone, I have family and friends, I have a legacy in my work and family…

I see. I seek the truth; I say the truth. I shall test, I shall be skeptical, and if I don't find it, I shall not change my current view.

Fair enough. So far, we've given you some foundational high-level head knowledge. Hopefully you've tried (and are continuing with) the practices we've asked you to do, so that you're also getting experiential knowledge. Truly investigating Christianity, though, begins by you talking to Jesus and asking Him to introduce Himself to you.

Talk to someone who may not exist?

Isn't the scientific method one of "create a hypothesis, test it, verify results, modify hypothesis based on results, then repeat as needed before the final conclusion is reached"?

Yes

Well, the hypothesis is 'Jesus exists and is alive, is Lord, and wants a relationship with you for eternity.'

Ok….

The test of the hypothesis is to say:

"Hello Jesus. I'm being told that You want to have a loving relationship with me. I ask You to confirm that with me somehow. If you confirm that with me in a way which I do not miss, I shall give up my view that You don't exist, that life is meaningless, that morality is an illusion, that death is the end, that we are merely atoms, and that there is no objective truth. As You confirm that with me, help me to identify how you want me to live, and to realize how I have missed the mark so far. Help me to realize that I am, indeed, loved as a person of value with purpose. Thank you."

What if I don't want to test this hypothesis? What if I don't WANT salvation?

That is totally up to you, and you are welcome to continue doing the exercises and discussing the results with your group. You may, however, find the course more and more frustrating, and yourself more and more out of step with it. You may decide to drop out, which would grieve me greatly. I hope you test this hypothesis, and I hope you find it true – but that action is up to you.

If you feel any of the above (life is meaningless, etc.), I encourage you to speak to Jesus as outlined above.

Share what happens with others whom you trust.

Day 98: Rest

We come again to the seventh day, so today we rest. Reflect on the past week and care for your needs (body and spirit). In the evening get together with a group you trust and share what you would like to from the previous week – good points, hard points, what you've learned, what you've struggled with, etc. Decide again if you wish to continue journeying together or want to stop.

Know that God loves you, whatever your understanding.

APPENDIX

Portions from the book of Exodus, Net English Translation (https://netbible.org).

First portion (known as "P")**:**

(verses: 14:1-4, 8-10, 15-18, 21-23, 26, 28-29)

14:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, **2** "Tell the Israelites that they must turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you are to camp by the sea before Baal Zephon opposite it. **3** Pharaoh will think regarding the Israelites, 'They are wandering around confused in the land—the desert has closed in on them.' **4** I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them. I will gain honor because of Pharaoh and because of all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So this is what they did.
8 But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he chased after the Israelites. Now the Israelites were going out defiantly. **9** The Egyptians chased after them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.
10 When Pharaoh got closer, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them, and they were terrified. The Israelites cried out to the LORD,
15 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. **16** And as for you, lift up your staff and extend your hand toward the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites may go through the middle of the sea on dry ground. **17** And as for me, I am going to harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will come after them, that I may be honored because of Pharaoh and his army and his chariots and his horsemen. **18** And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I have gained my honor because of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."
21 Moses stretched out his hand toward the sea, and the LORD drove the sea apart by a strong east wind all that night, and he made the sea into dry land, and the water was divided. **22** So the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
23 The Egyptians chased them and followed them into the middle of the sea—all the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.
26 The LORD said to Moses, "Extend your hand toward the sea, so that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen!"

28 The water returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all
the army of Pharaoh that was coming after the Israelites into the sea—not so much as one
of them survived! **29** But the Israelites walked on dry ground in the middle of the sea, the
water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Second portion (known as "J")**:**

(verses: 13:20-22, 14:5b-6, 13-14,19b-20, 24-25b, 27,30-31, 15:20-21)

13: 20 They journeyed from Sukkoth and camped in Etham, on the edge of the desert.
21 Now the LORD was going before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them in the way,
and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel day or
night. **22** He did not remove the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night from
before the people.
14:5b The king and his servants said, "What in the world have we done? For we
have released the people of Israel from serving us!" **6** Then
he prepared his chariots and took his army with him.
13 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the LORD that
he will provide for you today; for the Egyptians that you see today you will never, ever see
again. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you can be still."
19b The pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. **20** It came
between the Egyptian camp and the Israelite camp; it was a dark cloud and it lit up the
night so that one camp did not come near the other the whole night.
24 In the morning watch the LORD looked down on the Egyptian army through
the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian army into a
panic. **25b** The Egyptians said, "Let's flee from Israel, for the LORD fights for them
against Egypt!"
27 Moses extended his hand toward the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state when
the sun began to rise. Now the Egyptians were fleeing before it, but the LORD overthrew the
Egyptians in the middle of the sea.
30 So the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the
Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. **31** When Israel saw the great power that the LORD
had exercised over the Egyptians, they feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and
in his servant Moses.

15:20 Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with hand drums and with dances. **21** Miriam sang in response to them,

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea."

Third portion (known as "E")**:**

(verses: 13:17-19, 14:5a, 7, 11-12, 19a, 25a)

13:17 When Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them by the way to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, "Lest the people change their minds and return to Egypt when they experience war." **18** So God brought the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up from the land of Egypt prepared for battle. **19** Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the Israelites solemnly swear, "God will surely attend to you, and you will carry my bones up from this place with you."

14:5a When it was reported to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people. **7** He took 600 select chariots, and all the rest of the chariots of Egypt, and officers on all of them.

11 They (the Israelites) said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What in the world have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Isn't this what we told you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians, because it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!'"

19a The angel of God, who was going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them. **25a** He jammed the wheels of their (the Egyptians') chariots so that they had difficulty driving.

Forth portion:

(verses: 15:1-19)

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously,

the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.
2 The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
3 The LORD is a warrior—
the LORD is his name.
4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea,
and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea.
5 The depths have covered them;
they went down to the bottom like a stone.
6 Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power;
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
7 In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown
those who rise up against you.
You sent forth your wrath;
it consumed them like stubble.
8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,
the flowing water stood upright like a heap,
and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea.
9 The enemy said, 'I will chase, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil;
my desire will be satisfied on them.
I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.'
10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you—majestic in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders?
12 You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.
13 By your loyal love you will lead the people whom you have redeemed;
you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling place.
14 The nations will hear and tremble;

anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.
15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab,
and the inhabitants of Canaan will shake.
16 Fear and dread will fall on them;
by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone
until your people pass by, O LORD,
until the people whom you have bought pass by.
17 You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,
in the place you made for your residence, O LORD,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!
19 For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots and his footmen into the sea,
and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them,
but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea."

The full version combining the four portions, as it is written in our bibles:

13:17 When Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them by the way to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, "Lest the people change their minds and return to Egypt when they experience war." **18** So God brought the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up from the land of Egypt prepared for battle. **19** Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the Israelites solemnly swear, "God will surely attend to you, and you will carry my bones up from this place with you." **20** They journeyed from Sukkoth and camped in Etham, on the edge of the desert.
21 Now the LORD was going before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel day or night. **22** He did not remove the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night from before the people.
14:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, **2** "Tell the Israelites that they must turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you are to camp by the sea before Baal Zephon opposite it. **3** Pharaoh will think regarding the Israelites, 'They are wandering around confused in the land—the desert has closed in on them.' **4** I will harden Pharaoh's heart,

and he will chase after them. I will gain honor because of Pharaoh and because of all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So this is what they did.
5 When it was reported to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people, and the king and his servants said, "What in the world have we done? For we have released the people of Israel from serving us!"
6 Then he prepared his chariots and took his army with him. **7** He took 600 select chariots, and all the rest of the chariots of Egypt, and officers on all of them.
8 But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he chased after the Israelites. Now the Israelites were going out defiantly. **9** The Egyptians chased after them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.
10 When Pharaoh got closer, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them, and they were terrified. The Israelites cried out to the LORD, **11** and they said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What in the world have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Isn't this what we told you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians, because it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!'"
13 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the LORD that he will provide for you today; for the Egyptians that you see today you will never, ever see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you can be still."
15 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. **16** And as for you, lift up your staff and extend your hand toward the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites may go through the middle of the sea on dry ground. **17** And as for me, I am going to harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will come after them, that I may be honored because of Pharaoh and his army and his chariots and his horsemen. **18** And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I have gained my honor because of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."
19 The angel of God, who was going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. **20** It came between the Egyptian camp and the Israelite camp; it was a dark cloud and it lit up the night so that one camp did not come near the other the whole night.
21 Moses stretched out his hand toward the sea, and the LORD drove the sea apart by a strong east wind all that night, and he made the sea into dry land, and the water was

divided. **22** So the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
23 The Egyptians chased them and followed them into the middle of the sea—all the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen. **24** In the morning watch the LORD looked down on the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian army into a panic. **25** He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving, and the Egyptians said, "Let's flee from Israel, for the LORD fights for them against Egypt!"
26 The LORD said to Moses, "Extend your hand toward the sea, so that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen!" **27** So Moses extended his hand toward the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state when the sun began to rise. Now the Egyptians were fleeing before it, but the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. **28** The water returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the army of Pharaoh that was coming after the Israelites into the sea—not so much as one of them survived! **29** But the Israelites walked on dry ground in the middle of the sea, the water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
30 So the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. **31** When Israel saw the great power that the LORD had exercised over the Egyptians, they feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.
15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.
2 The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
3 The LORD is a warrior—
the LORD is his name.
4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea,
and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea.
5 The depths have covered them;
they went down to the bottom like a stone.
6 Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power;

your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
7 In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown
those who rise up against you.
You sent forth your wrath;
it consumed them like stubble.
8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,
the flowing water stood upright like a heap,
and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea.
9 The enemy said, 'I will chase, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil;
my desire will be satisfied on them.
I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.'
10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you—majestic in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders?
12 You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.
13 By your loyal love you will lead the people whom you have redeemed;
you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling place.
14 The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.
15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab,
and the inhabitants of Canaan will shake.
16 Fear and dread will fall on them;
by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone
until your people pass by, O LORD,
until the people whom you have bought pass by.
17 You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,
in the place you made for your residence, O LORD,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!

19 For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots and his footmen into the sea,
and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them,
but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea."
20 Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand drum in her hand,
and all the women went out after her with hand drums and with dances. **21** Miriam sang in response to them,
"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea."