



The Sacred Silence of the Sea ~ Exodus 14

Do Not Fear! We are all familiar with the miracle of the “splitting” וַיִּבְקַעַן of the Sea of Reeds יַם־סוּף (in English we say ‘parting of the Red Sea’), but do we ponder how miraculous and reverent this event truly was? All of Israel was in a justified panic as they literally came to a dead end, as their backs were to the sea, and as Pharaoh’s chariots raced to massacre them. At that moment of panic and commotion, Moses commanded Israel to do their part in this miraculous miracle in which the God Yehovah would officiate. In Exodus 14:13, in Hebrew, the words of Moses are commanding and instructive. A more accurate translation is:

“Do not fear! Position yourselves! And See! Yeshua of Yehwah which He will do for you today.”

Moses proclaims three commands. The first is not the usual translation, “Fear not”, but a different Hebrew command, “Do Not Fear” אַל־תִּירָאוּ. This type of command is used for immediate situations. In Hebrew there is a difference between “Fear not/You shall not fear” לֹא and “Do not fear” אַל, the first is general לֹא and the second is immediate אַל. Moses’ second command is very interesting, it does not say “stand still” but rather it uses a specific Hebrew imperative הִתְיַצְּבוּ (command word) that means “to position or station oneself firmly.” This command reminds me of the Lord’s admonition to “Stand ye in Holy Places, and Be Not Moved” (D&C 87:8). Both Exodus 14:13 and D&C 87:8 are similar contexts and applications with reference to Yehovah Sabaoth צְבָאוֹת יְהוָה and His many wonders. Israel is about to participate in something holy that has to do with Spirit and Water (much like a Re-Birth or a Baptism). The third command of Moses was for Israel to “See!” וּרְאוּ both the “Yeshua” יְשׁוּעָה (in English this means Salvation, Savior, Jesus) of Yehovah יְהוָה pointing directly to Yeshua the Messiah. They were to watch and witness in firm reverence the Spirit and Power of God before them. This is emphasized by Moses in Exodus 14:14 as he instructed: “And You, You will be silent!” In other words, it was imperative that all of Israel focus in reverent silence as God’s Spirit (In Hebrew, Wind and Spirit רוּחַ are the same word) “leads” the waters to stand at attention (Exodus 14:21) so that Israel would go forward “in the middle of the sea” (Exodus 14:16).

Now Moses was told only to “stretch out his hand” with his staff over the water. He was not told to say anything. The Prophet’s powerful reverence, with outstretched hand, was the sign. Israel’s one and only true God, Yehovah, would now take over. This sacred experience took all night, in sacred reverence and spiritual silence, so that the only noise heard was the Spirit, the Wind, and the Waters manifesting the power of Creation and Creator. As the Prophet Joseph Smith witnessed, “His voice was as the sound of rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah” (D&C 110:3).