# God Saves His People from the Enemy

When the king refused to listen to Moses, God tried to make the King see how wrong he was. The water went bad in all the rivers; thunderstorms and rain destroyed almost all the grass, swarms of flies, large bugs and frogs ruined all the crops and fields; the water in the river and canals turned to blood. Cattle horses and camels died, Ten times the king promised to let the Hebrews go, but every time, he broke his promise and God sent more terrible things to make life difficult for the Hebrew people in Egypt.

Then God told all the Hebrew people to kill a lamb and offer it as a sacrifice to God. God told them to put the blood from the lamb on the doorposts of their houses. They should cook the lamb well and make a special meal. They should pack all their belongings, eat all the food and wait for the Lord to pass over every house.

The Hebrews prepared everything as the Lord God had said. At midnight, a terrible thing happened. The oldest son in every Egyptian home died suddenly from a mysterious sickness. But all the Hebrew boys stayed well, as the Lord passed over the houses marked with the blood of the lamb.

All the king's people begged the Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. The king was frightened; even his own son had died in the night! In the middle of the night he called Moses and said to him: "Get up! Take all your people, all your belongings, all your goats, sheep, and cattle, and go away quickly. Serve your God where you want."

Then, in the middle of the night, crowds of people came from all the Hebrew homes; old men and women, boys and girls, fathers and mothers carrying babies in their arms. They carried bundles of clothing, blankets, food, and all the precious things that they owned. They took flocks of sheep, goats, oxen, and donkeys with them. All the streets and roads were filled with the great crowd of thousands and thousands of Hebrews leaving Egypt. The Egyptians were so eager to see them go that they gave them some of their own things, to help them leave more quickly.

But as soon as the Hebrews were well on their way and were camping at the side of a sea, the wicked king of Egypt was sorry that he had let them go. "Why did I do this? Who will work for us now?" he asked.

Because he was sorry he let them go, he ordered all his men to make ready the chariots drawn by fast horses. He hurried with this huge army of soldiers to bring back the Hebrews.

The Hebrews were frightened when they heard the thunder of the horses' hoofs on the road, the noise of the rolling chariots, and the shouting of the soldiers "Perhaps we shouldn't have left Egypt," they said.

Moses answered them: "Don't be afraid. I will ask God to save you." Moses prayed to God and his prayer went up to heaven. Like a loud call, God answered him saying:

"Lift the rod you have in your hand and stretch it over the sea." Moses did as God told him. A very strong wind blew on and on until the water was driven back and a dry path formed across the sea. While they passed over the sea on the path, God sent a great cloud to hide them.

Only when the Hebrews were safely on the other side did the Egyptians see what had happened. They followed the Hebrews over the same path. But the wheels of their heavy chariots couldn't roll through the wet sand.

Then God said to Moses again: "Stretch your rod over the sea," and Moses did so.

Immediately the wind stopped blowing. The waters rushed back and covered the path, and all of the Egyptian army was swallowed up by the sea. Now there was no one left to follow the Hebrews. They were all safe to remain in their camp on the other side of the sea. Moses and his people sang a great song thanking God for saving them:

**"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his chariots he has thrown into the sea.**

**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...**

[See Liturgical Resource Bin: for **Psalm Refrains** for the **Song of Moses**.]