

We next read the word “**midnight**” in EXODUS 12. Between the verses we just read, and those we are about to read, the Lord instituted the Passover, which you can study further on your own. Then we read in EXODUS 12:28 *And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 29 And it came to pass, that at **midnight** (the darkest hour of the night) the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, (this is a **midnight** Bible story) and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. 33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. 34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. 35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled (plundered; took heavy payment; took a toll; took away all their goods from) the Egyptians.*

Thus the Lord DELIVERED the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, their land of bondage. EXODUS 12:42 states this of that night: *It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.* This observance of that night is called the Passover. EXODUS 12:51 *And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.* So we see how DELIVERANCE and SALVATION is expressed in these two chapters where the word “**midnight**” is first found in our Bible.

### **Moses and the Red Sea**

In EXODUS 14 we find the story of the crossing of the Red Sea. The crossing of the Red Sea pictures to us our salvation. The children of Israel only crossed the Red Sea once, and we are only saved once; once and for all. We are born only once, and we are born again only once. When we get saved what do we have? Everlasting life. JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ...36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* JOHN 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* The Father's hand is the same strong and mighty hand that delivered Israel out of the land of Egypt.

So what does the crossing of the Red Sea have to do with our study of **midnight** Bible stories? Remember the thought from a note in my Bible of how the darkest of times brought forth the heroes of faith? The darkest of times are **midnight** hours when all hope of being saved is taken away. It was the darkest of times for the children of Israel when in EXODUS 14 they faced the uncrossable Red Sea in front of them, and the well trained, and well equipped Egyptian army behind them. This then is the setting as we begin reading in EXODUS 14:13 *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. 15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and*

*they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. 21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.*

Before we proceed any further reading this account, what was the timing of this story? Did you notice that this was a **midnight** Bible story? Did you catch the fact that it was night, and the darkest of time when they were instructed to "go forward" in steps of faith in EXODUS 14:15. EXODUS 13:21 & 22 tells us: *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.* This shows a twenty-four hour a day Saviour, who provides shade and comfort on the hottest day, and warmth, heat and light on the darkest night, even during the **midnight** hours of our lives. The light of the Lord guided the children through the Red Sea at this darkest **midnight** hour, and cloud of the Lord that gave light unto the children of Israel was a cloud of darkness to the Egyptians so that the Egyptians were prevented from getting to the children of Israel. Meanwhile the children of Israel proceeded that night on dry land through the Red Sea. Verse 24 tells of the morning watch. The morning watch speaks of the time of night when daybreak is fast approaching, and darkness fades away giving way to a new day. Again EXODUS 14: 24 and 25 says -- *And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.*

Let finish our **midnight** Bible story of EXODUS 14 reading from verse 26 -- *And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. 31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*

This whole **midnight** story is summed up in one verse of HEBREWS 11. HEBREWS 11:29 *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.* Again we find that the darkest of times brings forth the heroes of faith.