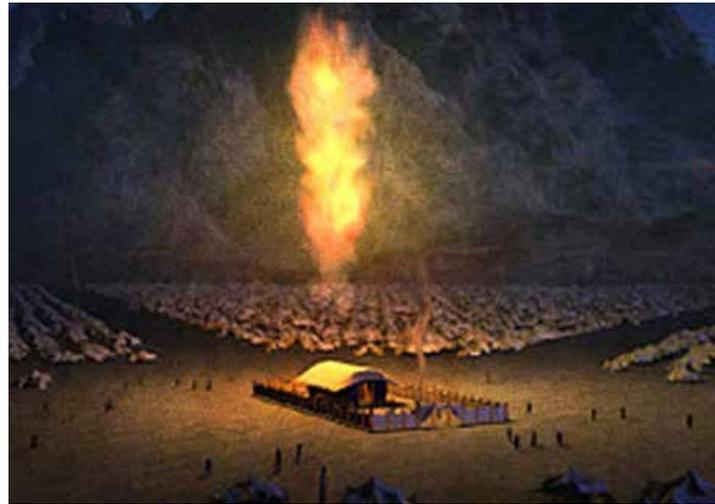


# The LORD Is Always With His People

A study of Psalm 114

Dr. Oliver Blosser



Psalm 114 contains no psalm title. As a result, the authorship of this psalm is unknown. The psalm describes Israel's Exodus from Egypt, the LORD's provision for their wilderness journey, their entrance into the Promised Land, and the conquest of their enemies.

It is a Jewish Passover tradition for Jewish families to sing this psalm during the Passover Seder. What great meaning the beautiful poetic Hebrew Language might have for the LORD's people during the Passover Seder. Observe that the psalmist uses striking poetic metaphors to teach both theology and history. His literary approach reaches the imagination and stirs the human heart.

The psalm is about the fact that the LORD is always with believers. It is about the LORD's gracious relationship with His People throughout all the circumstances of life.

## I. The LORD Was With His People At The Timeframe Of The Exodus

### *Psalm 114:1-2*

- 1     *When Israel went out of Egypt,  
      The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,*
- 2     *Judah became His sanctuary,  
      And Israel His dominion.*

### A. The LORD Was With His People At The Timeframe Of The Exodus

The Exodus is the greatest Redemptive Event cited in the Hebrew Scriptures. It took place after the tenth and final plague in Egypt— It centered on the death of the first-born and the first-born of animals. Previously, the Hebrew People had selected a lamb for the Passover, watched it for four days and then slaughtered the lamb at 3:00 p.m. in order to have time to celebrate the Passover Seder that evening. The blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts and lintel of each Hebrew home. This was to cause the Death-Angel to pass-over when the lamb's blood was seen. All the plagues of Egypt were directed against the gods of Egypt. The tenth plague was particularly directed against the household of Pharaoh who was considered to be a god and the first-born of Pharaoh's household who was the crown prince and considered to be the 'son of god'.

### **Exodus 12:23**

*For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.*

In verse 1, 'Israel' and 'the house of Jacob' are parallel terms. The 'strange language' would be hieroglyphics which is not a Semitic language as Hebrew is.

Prior to the Exodus, the LORD remembered His covenant with Abraham because of the prayers of His People.

## **B. The Establishment Of The Abrahamic Covenant**

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

- 1     *Now the LORD had said to Abram:  
      "Get out of your country,  
      From your family  
      And from your father's house,  
      To a land that I will show you.*
- 2     *I will make you a great nation;  
      I will bless you  
      And make your name great;  
      And you shall be a blessing.*
- 3     *I will bless those who bless you,  
      And I will curse him who curses you;  
      And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

In this covenant, there are three elements" 1) the land aspect, 2) the nation and Messianic Seed aspect, and 3) the blessing aspect. Since God's People are enslaved in Egypt, the LORD wants to move forward toward the fulfillment of the covenant. That is why the LORD makes seven 'I Will' promises to Israel—

### **Exodus 6:1-8**

*1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." 2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them. 4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. 6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: "I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 I will*

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." 2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them. 4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. 6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: "I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.' "

Note the seven 'I Will' promises by the LORD to Israel. As you can observe, the main promise of the LORD's seven 'I Wills' is a land focus in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Israel's deliverance from Egypt through the Exodus was Israel's 'national birthday'. That is why the Exodus is frequently cited in the psalms, cf., 74:13; 77:17-20; 78:12-16, 52-53; 106:9-12; 136:10-15.

#### **Psalm 136:10-16**

10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
11 And brought out Israel from among them,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,  
For His mercy endures forever;  
16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness,  
For His mercy endures forever.

With the Exodus, the Hebrew People were now set free to serve God and accomplish the important tasks He had assigned to them as they lived in the Promised Land —

- Bearing witness to the only true and living God to the nations
- Writing the Scriptures, God's Revelation, in Hebrew under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Bringing the Messiah into the world through the tribe of Judah.
- Sending missionaries to the nations.

### C. The Great Spiritual Lesson

There is a great spiritual lesson here for New Testament believers. Egypt represents the world and the bondage of the sinner to its evil forces.

**Ephesians 2:1-3** — *1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

The blood of the lamb applied to the doorposts and lintel protected the Jewish firstborn from death, just as the Blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, delivers us from sin and death. The LORD's power in dividing the Red Sea liberated Israel and separated them from their cruel taskmasters. This is a picture of Jesus' Resurrection and the believer's participation in it.

**Ephesians 2:4-10** — *4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Colossians 3:1-4** — *1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

### D. The LORD's Sanctuary And Dominion

In verse 2 of Psalm 114, 'Judah' and 'Israel' are parallel terms referring to the Nation. When the Philistines conquered Shiloh, the location of the Mosaic Tabernacle, it was eventually re-located near Jerusalem in Judah. David and his son, King Solomon, were responsible for the Solomonic Temple to be built on Mount Moriah. King David from the tribe of Judah gathered together the building supplies and received the divine blueprint for the building of the Temple in order to help to make his son successful. King Solomon built the Temple. And the land of Israel became the dominion, i.e., the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Not only was the LORD's Sanctuary in Judah, but also the LORD's throne. The LORD's throne is the throne of David in Jerusalem. Note the following Messianic Text about David's Son and throne—

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

6 For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this

The LORD made a covenant with David known as the Davidic Covenant.

**II Samuel 7:12-16** — 12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’

In this unconditional covenant, the LORD promises King David three things: 1) the eternal dynasty, i.e., an eternal son, namely, the Son of David, the Messiah, 2) the eternal throne, which ultimately is the throne of the LORD, and 3) the eternal kingdom of God upon this earth.

### **Psalms 89:3-4**

3 “I have made a covenant with My chosen,  
I have sworn to My servant David:  
4 “Your seed I will establish forever,  
And build up your throne to all generations.’ ” Selah

The ‘horn’ in the following passage is the Messiah, the Son of David.

### **Psalm 89:24-29**

- 24 *"But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him,  
And in My name his horn shall be exalted.*
- 25 *Also I will set his hand over the sea,  
And his right hand over the rivers.*
- 26 *He shall cry to Me, "You are my Father,  
My God, and the rock of my salvation.'*
- 27 *Also I will make him My firstborn,  
The highest of the kings of the earth.*
- 28 *My mercy I will keep for him forever,  
And My covenant shall stand firm with him.*
- 29 *His seed also I will make to endure forever,  
And his throne as the days of heaven.*

The LORD will never break His covenant with David.

### **Psalm 89:30-37**

- 30 *"If his sons forsake My law  
And do not walk in My judgments,*
- 31 *If they break My statutes  
And do not keep My commandments,*
- 32 *Then I will punish their transgression with the rod,  
And their iniquity with stripes.*
- 33 *Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him,  
Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.*
- 34 *My covenant I will not break,  
Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.*
- 35 *Once I have sworn by My holiness;  
I will not lie to David:*
- 36 *His seed shall endure forever,  
And his throne as the sun before Me;*
- 37 *It shall be established forever like the moon,  
Even like the faithful witness in the sky." Selah*

## **E. The Tabernacle/Temple Concept In Scripture**

The People of Israel had the glorious presence of the LORD dwell in the Mosaic Tabernacle. Observe what the Bible says about the Glory-Cloud, which is the presence of God.

**Exodus 40:34-38**— 34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Here the LORD is fulfilling one of His 'I will' statements— "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God," Exodus 6:7a. The Glory-Cloud also filled the Solomonic Temple.

**1 Kings 8:1-11** —1 Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which is Zion. 2 Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month. 3 So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 Then they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. 5 Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. 6 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 9 Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Later the Body of Jesus became a Tabernacle for the LORD.

**John 1:14** —And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Today, the LORD dwells in the body of believers. Our bodies are the LORD's Temples and believers together in the Church form the LORD's Sanctuary.

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** —16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

**I Corinthians 6:19-20** — 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**II Corinthians 6:14-18** — 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

*"I will dwell in them  
And walk among them.  
I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people."*

17 Therefore

*"Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the Lord.  
Do not touch what is unclean,  
And I will receive you."*

18 *"I will be a Father to you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the LORD Almighty."*

**Ephesians 2:19-22**— 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## **II. The LORD Was With His People At The Dividing Of The Red Sea And The Crossing Of The Jordan.**

### **Psalm 114:3-6**

3 *The sea saw it and fled;  
Jordan turned back.*

4 *The mountains skipped like rams,  
The little hills like lambs.*

5 *What ails you, O sea, that you fled?  
O Jordan, that you turned back?*

6 *O mountains, that you skipped like rams?  
O little hills, like lambs?*

## A. The Dividing Of The Red Sea

In verse 3, the sea is the Red Sea which fled or was divided before the People of Israel when they were in danger of Pharaoh's army. The LORD was with His People, and made a way to escape, a dry pathway through the sea.

### *Exodus 15:1-13 —*

1 *Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "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 song,  
And He has become my salvation;  
He is my God, and I will praise Him;  
My father's God, and I will exalt Him.*

3 *The LORD is a man of war;  
The LORD is His name.*

4 *Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;  
His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.*

5 *The depths have covered them;  
They sank to the bottom like a stone.*

6 *"Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power;  
Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces.*

7 *And in the greatness of Your excellence  
You have overthrown those who rose against You;  
You sent forth Your wrath;  
It consumed them like stubble.*

8 *And with the blast of Your nostrils  
The waters were gathered together;  
The floods stood upright like a heap;  
The depths congealed in the heart of the sea.*

9 *The enemy said, "I will pursue,  
I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil;  
My desire shall be satisfied on them.  
I will draw my sword,  
My hand shall destroy them.'*

10 *You blew with Your wind,  
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, glorious in holiness,  
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?*

12 *You stretched out Your right hand;  
The earth swallowed them.*

13 *You in Your mercy have led forth  
The people whom You have redeemed;  
You have guided them in Your strength  
To Your holy habitation.*

The LORD's 'holy habitation' is the Temple Mountain, Mount Moriah, at Jerusalem.

**Psalm 74:12-14 —**

12 For God is my King from of old,  
Working salvation in the midst of the earth.  
13 You divided the sea by Your strength;  
You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.  
14 You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces,  
And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

**Psalm 78:12-13 —**

12 Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers,  
In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.  
13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through;  
And He made the waters stand up like a heap.

**Psalm 78:52-53—**

52 But He made His own people go forth like sheep,  
And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;  
53 And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear;  
But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

**Psalm 106:9-12 —**

9 He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up;  
So He led them through the depths,  
As through the wilderness.  
10 He saved them from the hand of him who hated them,  
And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.  
11 The waters covered their enemies;  
There was not one of them left.  
12 Then they believed His words;  
They sang His praise.

The crossing of the Red Sea was from the Sinai Wilderness into Arabia (Modern Saudi Arabia) where Israel journeyed, northward to Mount Sinai in the land of Midan.

**Galatians 4:24-25—** 24 Which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—

Today, there is evidence on the floor of the Red Sea where Israel crossed of chariots and chariot wheels, belonging to Pharaoh's drowned army.

**Exodus 14:23-25**—23 *And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. 25 And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."*

## **B. The Crossing Of The Jordan River**

The Bible affirms that the Jordan River turned back. Then Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

**Joshua 3:13-17**—13 *And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap." 14 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), 16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.*

**Joshua 4:21-24** —21 *Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' 22 then you shall let your children know, saying, "Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land"; 23 for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."*

As you can see, most of this psalm is devoted to describing the miracles which the LORD performed for the People of Israel as they left Egypt and headed for Canaan. The key to this psalm is that the LORD is always with His People. Regardless of the situation, the LORD was with His People at the time of the Exodus, at the dividing of the Red Sea and at the crossing of the Jordan River. Because the LORD was with His People throughout all the circumstances of life— the Red Sea fled and the Jordan River turned backward. What ails you, O Sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? Psalm 114:5. When the Bible states— The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs, Psalm 114:4, 6. This picture is that of God removing all obstacles from before Joshua and the victorious Hebrew army in the conquest of Canaan.

### III. The LORD Was With His People By Providing Water In The Wilderness

#### **Psalm 114:7-8**

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
At the presence of the God of Jacob,  
8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water,  
The flint into a fountain of waters.

The LORD went before His People as they journeyed. His appearance was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The LORD became a cloud by day to protect His People from the heat of the sun as they traveled through the desert. He became a pillar of fire by night to provide warmth during the coldness of the desert night.

**Exodus 40:36-38** —36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

#### **A. The Trembling Of The Nations**

It was this presence of the LORD which caused the people to tremble among the nations. They had never seen anything like this. The expressions 'the presence of the LORD' and 'the presence of the God of Jacob' are parallel terms. Here is Rahab of Jericho with her testimony.

**Joshua 2:8-15** —8 Now before they [the two Hebrew spies] lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. 12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." 14 So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you." 15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

### **Exodus 15:14-17**

- 14 *"The people will hear and be afraid;  
Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.*
- 15 *Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed;  
The mighty men of Moab,  
Trembling will take hold of them;  
All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.*
- 16 *Fear and dread will fall on them;  
By the greatness of Your arm  
They will be as still as a stone,  
Till Your people pass over, O LORD,  
Till the people pass over  
Whom You have purchased.*
- 17 *You will bring them in and plant them  
In the mountain of Your inheritance,  
In the place, O LORD, which You have made  
For Your own dwelling,  
The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.*

### **B. The Struck Rock**

There are two different Hebrew words in Psalm 114 that are used for 'rock' in verse 8. The first Hebrew word refers to the event in the wilderness journey when Moses struck the rock with his rod (staff).

**Exodus 17:1-7** — *1 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" 5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*

## C. The Spoken To Rock

The second Hebrew word for 'rock' is 'flint' when Moses was to speak to the rock, but in his anger against the people's murmurings, he struck the rock. Of course, the Rock represents Jesus. But this event kept Moses out from the Holy Land. Jesus was only to be struck once, i.e., the crucifixion. Now that Jesus was struck once, believers speak to Him in prayer.

*1 Corinthians 10:1-4— 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

*Numbers 20:1-13 — 1 Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there. 2 Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. 3 And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! 4 Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? 5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink." 6 So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them. 7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." 9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. 12 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." 13 This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.*

### **Psalm 78:15-16**

- 15 He split the rocks in the wilderness,  
And gave them drink in abundance like the depths.
- 16 He also brought streams out of the rock,  
And caused waters to run down like rivers.

The water from this second rock still flows and can be seen at Wadi Mosa, in Jordan, near Ancient Petra.

This psalm reveals the LORD going before His people through the hopeless places— the Red Sea, the Jordan River— and the hard places— the mountains and the little hills— and He even provided water out of the rocks for His People to drink in a dry and thirsty desert.

The People of Israel had the presence of the God of Jacob with them through all of the difficulties of life. The LORD was always there for them. The Presence of Jesus will always be with you. You are never alone as you face the circumstances of life. Listen to Jesus' words of hope and comfort—

*Matthew 28:20b* — ... *“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

*Hebrews 13:5b* — ... *For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

*Psalm 46:1* — *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

**Thank You, Jesus, for being with us. What an awesome Savior You are!**