

HOW GOD DID IT

Exodus 12 - 17

Introduction: God is indeed the great and mighty Being.. The things He has done are beyond the reasoning of mankind. His methods of accomplishing these great deeds are seldom, if ever understood by the most brilliant of men, so unbelieving man unable to explain "how God did it" explains how he thinks it "really" happened, such as a "Big Bang" theory for the creation (which has no meaning whatsoever), the exodus across the sea was done at low tide and so on (not explaining how Pharoah's army drowned at low tide). No man has tried to explain how God took care of over three million people and their animals in the desert wilderness for 40 years. Here are some facts:

I. THE HEBREW PEOPLE WERE CHOSEN BY GOD

1. They did not choose Him. God promised their forefather, Abraham, that He (God) would make a great nation of his descendants.
2. God had the task of changing a small desert tribe into a great, learned people, wise in the arts and sciences of woodworking, weaving, metal working, building, and businesses.
 - God needed a school to send Jacob's sons that they might learn these trades.
 - God chose Egypt for His schoolhouse.
3. Joseph was the first to be sent to Egypt and with the help of God he became a ruler there.
 - Christians are familiar with the story of Joseph's rise to power and then how God brought his family of 70 to Egypt.
4. Some 430 years pass between Joseph's family's arrival and the time Moses led the people out of bondage. During this time *"...the people were fruitful and prolific, they increased in numbers and grew greater so that the land was full of them."*(Exodus 1:7)
 - At the time of the Exodus there were 600,000 men 20 years old and older, besides the women and children.
 - If each man had a wife and an average of four children, this would give a total population of some 3,600,000. For 70 people to multiply to this number in 430 years, it would be necessary to double the population about every 25 years, easily possible.

II. GOD CHOSE TO REMOVE THEM FROM EGYPT TO THEIR PROMISED LAND

1. Time for the second lesson as they had learned professions and trades from the Egyptians.
 - The people must now learn that God is the only God.
 - God therefore leads them out to where they would be entirely dependent on Him for their every need.
 - As the people leave Egypt, they take gifts from the Egyptians of gold, silver, linen and clothing. Also taking their own cattle, flocks and herds, averaging for each man:

- 2 goats	1,200,000 total
- 2 sheep	1,200,000 total
- 1 donkey	600,000 total
- 1/2 cow	300,000 total
- 1/2 camel	<u>300,000 total</u>
	3,600,000 total head

- The same number as the people. A lot of animals, but necessary for the people to have the required sacrifices that God would require later on in their journey.
- 2. 3,600,000 people! If all the people were in one group, allowing a space 3'x3' per person, that would require 1.29 square miles of area. Putting up a 50'x50' tent and space for their animals, then a campsite of 3 billion square feet was needed. That's 109 square miles or 10.5x10.5 miles.
- 3. When marching through the Red Sea they could have lined up 50 people abreast, then the column of people would extend for 41 miles back into the desert and allow twice as much space for the cattle (size) and stretch that column to 123 miles.

III. THEY PEOPLE BEGAN TO GRUMBLE AND COMPLAIN ABOUT FOOD AND WATER

1. God started providing "manna" for the people after one month and throughout their entire journey.
 - They were allowed to take only 7 pints (1 omer) and what was left evaporated (God removed).
 - More than needed was provided but only so much was allowed to be taken:
 - 123,000 cubic feet for their allotments
 - 61,000 cubic feet extra (evaporated)
 - 184,000 cubic feet total manna provided by God.
 - An average railroad boxcar has about 4,000 cubic feet volume, thus 46 boxcars daily would be necessary.
 - Average use of water in the United States is around 60 to 75 gallons per day. Camping out it is around 25 gallons per person a day. Cows and horses 10 gpd and for sheep and goats, 5g.
 - The minimum water requirements would be about:
 - 1 gallon per day per person, and 2 gallons per day per head of livestock.
 - A total daily water requirement for water of 10,800,000 gallons per day.
 - 1,080 railroad tank cars daily or hooked to a 36 inch water pipe line flowing at 2.61 fps at a rate of 7,500 gallons per minute.
 - Not forgetting food for the livestock:
 - goats and sheep about 1 gallon of food per day.
 - larger animals about 2 gallons of food per day.
 - Thus the required food for the livestock would be some 4,800,000 gallons per day or 160 railroad box cars containing 640,000 cubic feet.
2. The daily train needed to supply food for God's people and their livestock is now 1,286 cars long and extends for 9.5 miles from front to rear. This would take about 13 trains of 100 cars each and every day.

CONCLUSION:

1. The land where God took His people was a barren waste and almost nothing grew there and only sand and rocky hills or mountains were found.
 - The very fact that 3,600,000 people and their livestock survived for 40 years is indeed something that only God could do. How else could it have happened?
2. This same God watches over His children today and has the same abilities He demonstrated so many years ago. He is willing and able to help His children if they will only go to Him in love, respect, obedience and prayer
3. The Christian has been chosen by God, also has a chosen place he/she will eventually go to and is being cared for by the very same God that Israel in the wilderness had.