

**Thought for Today: April 21, 2008**

**Psalm 114 (NASB)**

**When Israel went forth from Egypt,  
The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,  
Judah became His sanctuary,  
Israel, His dominion.**

**The sea looked and fled;  
The Jordan turned back.  
The mountains skipped like rams,  
The hills, like lambs.**

**What ails you, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?  
O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?**

**Tremble, O earth, before the Lord, Before the God of Jacob,  
Who turned the rock into a pool of water,  
The flint into a fountain of water.**

It was a magnificent day for the Israelites when God led them out of Egypt. He tore them from their bondage, and He bound up their hopes in His miraculously liberating deeds. God's grace was made visible for all to see. But this wasn't the greatest grace of all—not even for the people of Israel. The greatest grace that the Israelites received wasn't God's initial act of deliverance; rather, it was God's continuing presence. It was God's choice to come down and rule in the midst of His people. It was His choice to lead them through the wilderness and to destroy every obstruction in their way. It was His desire to set up residence with this little, helpless, yet-to-be nation that marks Him as special and peculiar.

But, why? my two-year-old would ask. Why, after all, would God do all this? Why suspend the seas, why turn back rivers, why shake the foundations of the earth? Why bring life out of that which was dead?

His promises. His love. His grace. His faithfulness. These are some of the reasons why God does what He does. Power, you say, What about power? That, too, is evident in God's interaction with His people. But God doesn't display His power just because He can. He does these things to capture our attention and incline our hearts to His will.

When we think of what God has done and what He has promised to do again, we should tremble in awe of His power and His grace. The psalmist did, and he did so in community. He shared his knowledge of God with others as he shared the remembrances of his ancestors. This is an example that you and I should follow.

Have you had moments in your life when the Lord has done marvelous things? Will we tell them to our children and our children's children? Will we remind people of the God we've come to know? Will we let God work powerfully in our lives so that others may see and hear and smell and touch and taste the liberation of God's grace?

In Him,  
Patrick Barber