

February 5 Answers

- 1) God began to **test** Israel the moment they left Egypt. Knowing they would turn back if they faced **war** with the Philistines, God deliberately led them to a place where they would be **trapped** between the Egyptian army and the sea. This teaches us that God may lead us into **desperate** situations in order to test our faith. The Israelites **panicked** at first, but Moses told them, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD” (Exod 14:13). Then “by **faith** the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land” (Heb 11:29). When the Egyptians tried to follow, God drowned the entire army. This teaches us that when we’re confronted by such circumstances, we should put our **trust** in God and **wait** for His deliverance. God delights to show Himself strong on behalf of those who fear Him (2 Chr 16:9). The awesome miracle at the Red Sea should have shown the Israelites that God was trustworthy, but only **three** days later, they were grumbling about the bitter water of Marah. This teaches us that witnessing **miracles** does not produce great faith. Instead, great faith is forged in the furnace of **adversity**. It comes from a settled conviction that God can and will keep His word (Luke 7:1–10). Sadly, Israel had to learn from repeated experience that God was able to provide for them. God recorded these events so we can learn to trust Him the **first** time. By focusing on God’s **faithfulness** in the past, we can face crises with confidence rather than with doubt and fear.