

PARSHAT BESHALACH
EXODUS 13:17-17:16
HAFTARAH JUDGES 4:4-5:31
11 SHEVAT 5783/02 FEBRUARY 2023



Paradise

Oil on copper by Carlo Saraceni

IMMERSION AND EMERGENCE:
CROSSING THE WATERS

1. **יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיַּבֵּשָׁה** (Exodus 14:16)
“...the Israelites will come into the midst of the sea on dry ground”

וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיַּבֵּשָׁה (Exodus 14:22)
The Israelites came into the sea on dry ground...
2. A river flows form Eden to water the garden... (Genesis 2:10)
3. Moses caused Israel to set out from the Sea of Reeds (יַם־סוּף). They went out (יִצְאוּ) into the wilderness. (Exodus 15:22)

4. סוף – reeds, rushes
סוף – end, conclusion, death (סוף כָּל־הָאָדָם, “the end of every human” Ecclesiastes 7:2)
סוף – come to an end, cease

The Field of Reeds (A’Aru) is the name of the Egyptian Afterlife

5. God will swallow up death (*mavet*) forever. (Isaiah 25:8)

6. The river is within us, the sea is all about us...
Fare forward, travelers! Not escaping from the past
Into different lives, or into any future;
You are not the same people who left the station
Or who will arrive at any terminus...
You shall not think “the past is finished”
Or the “future is before us.”

....

Men’s curiosity searches past and future
And clings to that dimension. But *to apprehend*
The point of intersection of the timeless
With time, is an occupation for the saint.

(T. S. Eliot, “The Dry Salvages”)