

PSALM 114

God's Deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (6-19-96). "Praising God for Israel's Deliverance from Egypt."
- B. In this Hallel Psalm, the second sung by the Jews at the beginning of various solemn feasts, the theme is the familiar one of deliverance from Egypt. Alexander McClaren describes the setting in this way: "It is possible that in this psalm Israel, returned from Babylon is looking back to the earlier Exodus, and thrilling with a great thought that the old past lives again in the present. Such a historical parallel would have ministered courage and hope to Israel."
- C. The NT often pictures Israel's bondage in Egypt as a symbol of our bondage in sin (1Cor. 10:1-13).

THE TEXT.

114:1 *When Israel went forth from Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
2 Judah became His sanctuary,
Israel, His dominion.
3 The sea looked and fled;
The Jordan turned back.
4 The mountains skipped like rams,
The hills, like lambs.
5 What ails you, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
6 O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?
7 Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,
Before the God of Jacob,
8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water,
The flint into a fountain of water.*

COMMENTS.

[v1,2] "When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob..." The synonymous parallelisms gives beautiful imagery.

[v3-6] "The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back." The Red Sea parted for their passage and the Jordan River stopped its flow and piled up in heaps. This beautiful imagery is almost like a cartoon/caricature w/nature animated and fleeing in fear and reverence as commanded in 114:7.

[v8] "Who turned the rock into a pool of water..." At the Wilderness of Sin, Moses brought water from the rock when God told him to strike it (Ex. 17:1-6). Later at the Wilderness of Zin at Kadesh, just before they went into Canaan, God told Moses to speak to the rock, and he struck it twice. God gave the people water, but did not let Moses enter Canaan (Num. 20:1-13).