

Psalm 114 is one of the Egyptian “Hallel” Psalms. What this means is that it is a Psalm that is praising God for His deliverance of His people from the Egyptians. God wants all people of the world to remember what He has done in the past for Israel and He wants them trembling about what He will do in the future.

**Verse 1** actually starts by picking up the narrative when Israel left Egypt and God started doing some wonderful and miraculous things for Israel.

However, according to **verse 2**, it must have actually been written after the kingdom split because there is a reference to Judah in the south and Israel in the north.

The Exodus occurred in 1440 B.C. and the division of the Kingdom occurred about 926 B.C.. So nearly 515 years had transpired between the Exodus and the division of the Kingdom.

During those 515 years Israel and the rest of the world, for the most part, had not seen God doing the dramatic. After the Exodus, there are some amazing things that happen in Joshua, but then the dramatic things seem to somewhat disappear. Miraculous episodes are far and few between.

It was in this very context that Israel and the rest of the world needed to be reminded to fear God and praise God. There is a powerful God who deserves to be worshipped and praised and He is to be revered and feared. **It is imperative that the world does not lose sight of God and of Israel because He once again will display His greatness with that nation.**

What God has done and will do for Israel is the reason why the entire world should worship God and certainly esteem Israel. One day Israel will be exalted above all creation.

**GOD IS TO BE FEARED AND WORSHIPPED BY ALL PEOPLE OF THE WORLD BECAUSE ISRAEL IS HIS PROTECTED PROPERTY, AND ONE DAY GOD WILL ONCE AGAIN DELIVER HER AND ESTABLISH HER AS HIS NATION.**

**STANZA #1 – God chose Israel to become the property of God. 114:1-2**

Now the emphasis of these verses is that God specifically chose Israel and eventually showed that to the entire world.

Israel was God’s chosen nation since Genesis 12, but it was not until the Exodus when God displayed that to Israel and the rest of the world. One commentator said the Exodus was really “the birthday of Israel.”

**Verse 1** describes Israel’s situation:

- 1) She had been in Egypt and went forth from Egypt.
- 2) She had been dominated by a foreign power who spoke a strange language.

The point of reminding Israel and us of this is that just because Israel is dominated by people of a strange language, does not mean this is the way it will always be.

**Verse 2** tells what eventually happened:

- 1) Judah became the sanctuary of God.
- 2) Israel became the dominion of God.

For a while Israel was dominated by foreign powers who spoke a foreign language. For a while she was a nation of slaves. But God set her free.

Israel's domination came to an end and in the end she was the property of God.

I am reminded about something the Apostle Paul said about his life. He said that he had been called from his mother's womb to be an apostle (Gal. 1:15). Yet it was many years later on the road to Damascus when God brought His sovereign election and salvation to him.

We may relate to this. Perhaps you are in a situation in which you are the property of God and you are being beaten down. Just remember the way things are now are not the way things will always be. In the end God's property will be displayed to be God's property.

**STANZA #2 – Nature recognized Israel was the property of God. 114:3-6**

When God's presence was with Israel, it had a profound effect on nature. I do not think this is a mere coincidence that this is mentioned because when God delivers Israel again, nature will display it.

In fact, there are references here to the waters and to the mountains, both of which will be used by God in the Tribulation as He regathers Israel and makes her His own nation again.

Now there are three main events that are brought out here:

**Event #1 - The Red Sea looked at Israel and fled back. 114:3a**

The sea takes a lot of lives every year. About 7000 people die by drowning in the United States every year. Well the sea became a place of salvation for the Israelites. They did not have any boats or life jackets. God parted the sea and the Israelites walked right through the middle of it.

Now the reason the sea fled back to the point that Israel could walk across it was because of the presence and power of God. God was the One who parted the sea for Israel.

God has not done this for any other nation and the foreign nations of the world would do well to remember this event.

**Event #2** - The Jordan River looked at Israel and turned back. **114:3b**

This great event occurred in Joshua 3:15-17. This was the beginning of Israel entering and taking her Promised Land.

God parted the Jordan for Israel and about 2 million people walked right through the middle of it on dry ground.

Again the reason the Jordan did this was because of the presence and power of God. This shows that Israel is God's property.

**Event #3** - The mountains shook when God Personally came to Israel. **114:4**

In Exodus 19:16-18, Mt. Sinai thundered and shook because of the presence of God connected to Israel.

Now the writer drives home his point in **verses 5-6** by asking some questions that force an answer:

**(Question #1)** - What ails the sea that it would flee? **114:5a**

**(Question #2)** - What ails the Jordan that it would turn back? **114:5b**

**(Question #3)** - What ails the mountains and the hills that skip like rams and lambs? **114:6**

Why did the sea flee, the Jordan turn back and the mountains shake? Why? **Because the presence of God was with Israel.**

As one writer said, the awe-inspiring presence of God, in regard to His nation Israel, caused it all. God is to be worshipped and feared because of it.

**STANZA #3** – All people of the earth should tremble before the God of Israel. **114:7-8**

Now the point of this is to get the people of the world to realize and tremble at the thought that God is the God of Israel. He is the God of Jacob. In fact, **verse 7** will occur when Christ comes to regather Israel (Matt. 24:29).

Notice the trembling is before the Lord. God is the One who monitors one's attitude toward Him and toward Israel.

In **verse 8** we learn that God turned a hard rock into a spring and pool of water. Only God could do this and again He did this for Israel.

But the truth is God is still in the business of doing something like this. God still is in the business of turning flint-like, hardened hearts into a life producing flow of the fruit of the Spirit of God.

This Psalm is designed to cause people to remember what God previously did for Israel because He will in the future do those same kinds of things again. He will once again regather Israel and display His sovereign power in nature.

In Revelation 8 and 16 we learn of some of the things God will do when once again He sovereignly turns His program back to Israel.

He will display His power with thunder, lightning and earthquakes. He will display his power with the mountains. He will display His power with the seas and fresh water supplies. He will use the sun, the moon, and the stars.

The world should tremble before the Lord because of what God has done and what God will do.

**PARTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1) God has the power to protect and deliver His property.**
- 2) Nature fears God and responds to God and so should we.**
- 3) Israel is God's nation and wise are those who honor God and honor Israel.**
- 4) God has a future program in which He will miraculously deliver Israel and His past deliverances proves He has the power to do it again.**