

“New Creations” in Baptism

Name: _____

Israel’s crossing of the Red Sea prefigured God’s amazing work in us at Baptism. In Baptism, we are united with Christ. In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says, “If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come” (5:17). God makes us “new creations” in Baptism.

This mystery of Baptism becomes clearer when we see how God’s work in Baptism was prepared for by his work in the crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus and his work at Creation in Genesis.

Read the passages from the Creation account in Genesis 1 on the left. Then reread the passages from Exodus 14 on page 134 of the Student Text. Look for verses that use similar language to these passages in Genesis. Write the verses from Exodus in the second column.

Genesis: Creation	Exodus: Crossing the Red Sea
The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving <i>over the face of the waters</i> . (Gen 1:2; emphasis added)	Exodus 14: <u>21 or 26</u>
God made the firmament and <i>separated the waters</i> which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. (Gen 1:7; emphasis added)	Exodus 14: <u>21</u>
And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and <i>let the dry land appear</i> .” And it was so. (Gen 1:9; emphasis added)	Exodus 14: <u>22</u>
And God saw <i>everything that he had made</i> , and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. (Gen 1:31; emphasis added)	Exodus 14: <u>31</u>

The crossing of the Red Sea parallels God’s work at Creation. God brings forth new life at Creation. God brings Israel to newness of life through the waters of the Red Sea. He saves them *from* death by destroying their enemies in the sea and frees them *for* a covenant relationship with him.

God’s work in Baptism is also similar to his work in the Red Sea.

Fill in the blanks using the word bank to explain how God's work in Baptism is similar to his work in saving the Israelites in the Red Sea.

1. In the Red Sea, God saved the Israelites from their enemies, the Egyptians. In Baptism, God saves us from our enemies, which are sin and death.
2. God destroyed the Egyptian army by drowning them in the Red Sea. In Baptism, God washes away Original Sin and all personal sin with his grace.
3. God freed the Israelites and gave them his law so they could be united with him in a sacred bond of a covenant. In Baptism, we become members of God's family, the Church, and are united with him in a sacred bond of the New Covenant.
4. What natural substance does God use to symbolize "burial" with Christ and the grace that cleanses and save us from all sin in Baptism? Water

Original Sin
sin and death
Covenant
grace
Church
water

God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt so they could become a sign of his love and mercy to all nations. Through Baptism, we, too, are empowered and sent by God to proclaim his mercy and love to everyone. **How can you live out your baptismal mission to proclaim God's love and mercy to others through both your actions and words?**

Answers may vary.
