

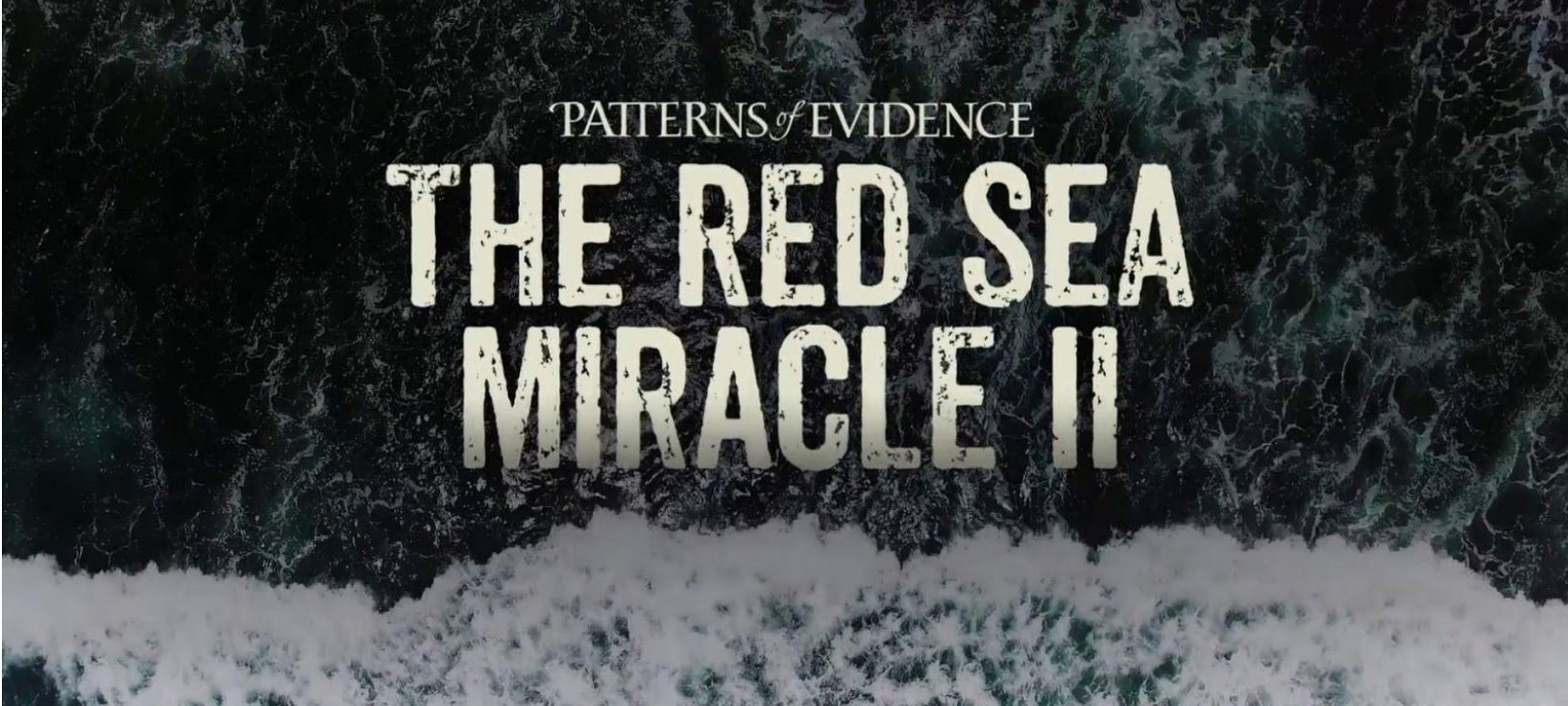
PATTERNS *of* EVIDENCE

THE RED SEA MIRACLE II

Study Session 1: Naturalistic Miracles?

Questions:

1. God can do small or large miracles. How does *where* you place the miraculous Exodus sea crossing affect *how* it happened?
2. Deb Hurn said one reason scholars shifted the Exodus sea crossing to the shallow marsh lakes on Egypt's border was that scholars became uncomfortable with the "patently supernatural." Is that attitude growing in the Church? How might it be growing in our own hearts and minds?
3. David Hume's suggested we can only believe in things we can touch and see. Do you think that is true?
4. What did Eric Metaxas say was an important aspect for understanding why God performs miracles? (see Ex. 9:14)
5. What are some ways that a cart burning tar or a volcanic plume possibly fits the biblical descriptions of the pillar of cloud and fire? What are some ways that it does not fit?
6. Digging Deeper - Is any evidence needed for biblical faith?




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Study Session 2: Hebrew Approach for the Detour to a Dead End

Questions:

1. In the Hebrew approach for the Detour to a Dead End step, what was the cause of the turn and does this fit the Scriptures better the Egyptian approach with forts causing the Detour? (see Ex. 14:2)
2. What key biblical evidence did Glen Fritz give showing that Yam Suph was at the Gulf of Aqaba? (see 1 Kings 9:26)
3. What key fact separates the crossings at the northern tip of Aqaba and the two sea crossing sites proposed at the central and southern end of Aqaba?
 - a. What thinking lies behind those two options regarding the depth of the water?
4. What are some of the pros and cons when considering how the Detour and Dead End fits the evidence (both in and outside the Bible) at Nuweiba Beach?
5. Is the fact that some of these place names at Nuweiba Beach are less specific than the Egyptian connections at the Ballah Lakes a negative for the Nuweiba proposal?
6. Digging Deeper - Has God ever asked you to take a Detour you were not expecting? And if so, what was the outcome?



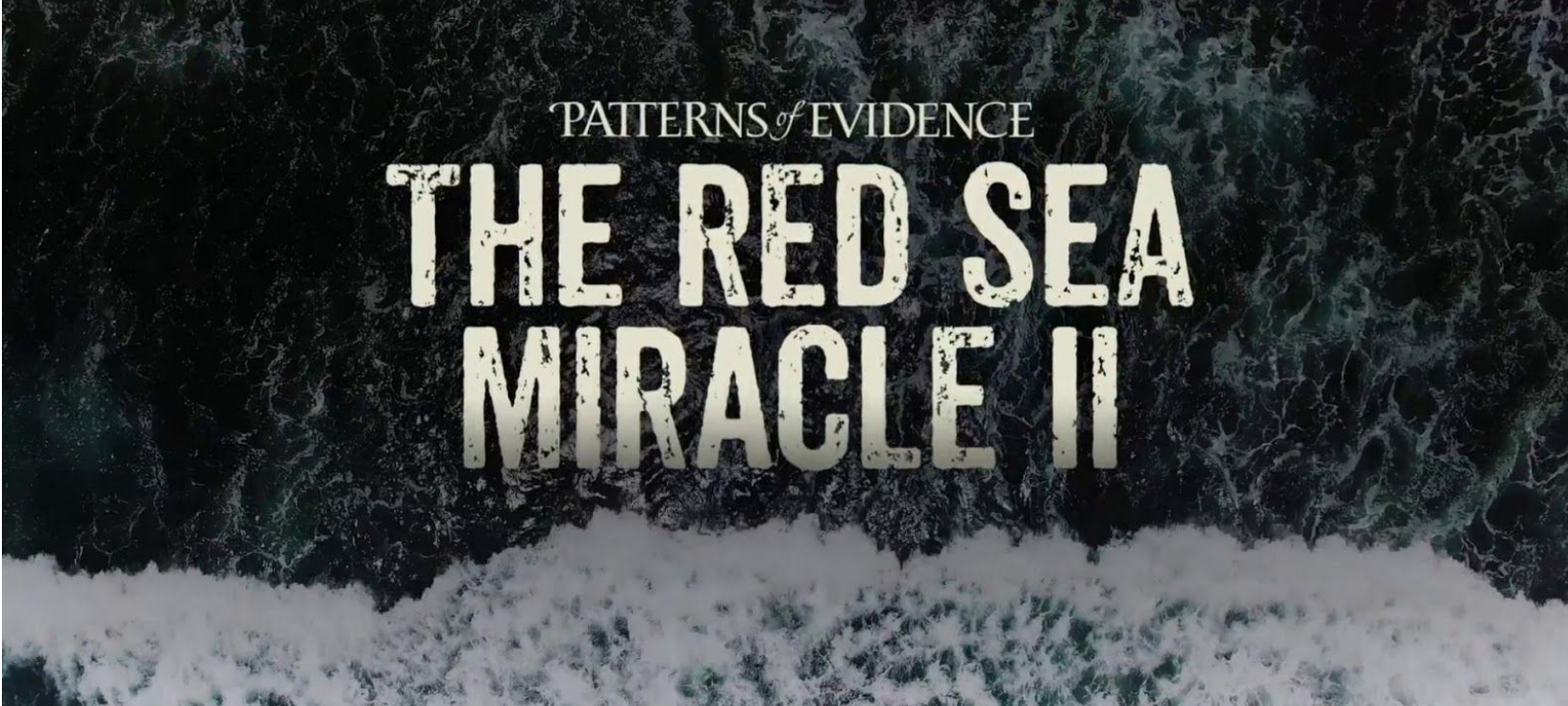
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Study Session 3: Conclusion of the Detour to a Dead End

Questions:

1. Personalities such as Ron Wyatt have polarized opinions about the Nuweiba Beach crossing proposal. What should opinions about the feasibility of this location be based on?
2. What do you think drives some people to accept everything certain personalities claim about evidence for the Bible or conversely to reject everything someone proposes?
3. Are those who have more knowledge about a topic necessarily correct in all their conclusions?
4. What advantage does a student of God's Word have when assessing competing claims related to the biblical account?
5. What does the cry given by the Israelites, *"Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?"* tell us about the location of this event? (Ex. 14:11-12)
6. Digging Deeper - Have you ever come to a place where you thought you were trapped with no way to escape? What happened?




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Study Session 4: The Egyptian Approach to the Deep Sea

Questions:

1. In the final Deep Sea step, is it fair to say that the water was “deep,” or is that “stacking the deck” in favor of the Hebrew approach?
2. Why do the Egyptian-approach-to-the-miracles insist that the water at the sea crossing must have been relatively shallow, and do you agree with that reasoning?
3. Does the fact that the “wind setdown” effect has been observed at different times and places make it a more likely explanation for the miraculous Exodus sea crossing?
4. Do you think the concept of naturalistic miracles given by Colin Humphreys and Carl Drews are adequate? (something happening at just the right time and place, and surviving a situation that looked like a disaster)
5. How does the wind setdown model explain the walls of water on the right and left? Does this idea line up with Exodus 15:8 and the end of 15:19?
6. Are the Bible’s descriptions of the deep and mighty waters of the sea crossing less reliable because most are found in poetic sections of the text?
7. Digging Deeper - Can you share a time when God rescued you from a potential disaster?




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Study Session 5: The Definition of *Suph* and the Deep Water Crossing Points

Questions:

1. What is the definition of *suph* and what are the implications if *suph* does not mean reeds?
2. How important is it to find the right interpretation of words to understand the biblical account?
3. Egyptology has obvious advantages in expertise on subjects related to Egypt, but are there sometimes disadvantages to being part of an academic field?
4. In the search for the sea crossing, is the *definition* of *suph* the most important factor, or is it more important to know *where* the Bible locates the sea?
5. Are the depths and slopes at Nuweiba or at the Straits of Tiran too great to make crossings there feasible?
6. Digging Deeper - Psalms 78:13 says, “*He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.*” What is God teaching you about the Israelites journey through the sea?




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THE RED SEA MIRACLE II

Study Session 6: The Nature of the Red Sea Miracle

Questions:

1. Do you think spectacular miracles necessarily break the laws of nature? (why?)
2. Do you remember any of Hume's requirements for believing a miracle account – how do they relate to the miracles recorded in Exodus?
3. What role can reliable eyewitness testimony have in investigating historical claims? (see Deut. 19:15, John 1:7 and John 5:39)
4. Was the east wind the ultimate cause for the sea parting?
5. Do you think the dramatic portrayal of a rapid deep-water sea parting fits the Bible's descriptions better than a wind setdown scenario? If so, why?
6. Digging Deeper - What do you say to a friend who doesn't believe that this Bible event is possible?



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Study Session 7: Finds on the Seafloor and the Sequence Summary

Questions:

1. Do you think it is right to be skeptical about the claims of finding bones and chariot parts on the seafloor?
2. Do you think some of the experts may have been a bit too pessimistic about the possibility of finding ancient remains there?
3. Once again, eyewitness testimony plays a role. What conclusions does Eric Lembcke's story support and what conclusions does it not support?
4. There was a disagreement about whether the scale of the sea-parting miracle had anything to do with the glory ascribed to God. What are your thoughts on that question? (see Ex. 9:16 and 14:4)
5. Barry Beitzel said that if God used natural means to part the sea, it's still a miracle. Do you agree with that conclusion, and is that the main point in determining which option best fit the Bible's description of the sea parting?
6. Digging Deeper - Which of the two main approaches strikes you as the better option as we summarize our investigation, and did you change your position?

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Study Session 8: Modern Miracles

Questions:

1. Tim Mahoney said that how we see miracles affects our view of God and how we live our lives. Do you agree with that statement and what differences does it make?
2. What aspect of the John Smith drowning story stood out to you?
3. Have you had any experiences of miracles happening in your life or in the life of someone you know?
4. Were you surprised to hear about the modern miracles documented by Craig Keener in his academic research and two-volume book *Miracles*?
 - a. How does this relate to David Hume's claim that universal human experience argues against miracles?
5. Do you think evidence *alone* (for God working in the world or for the truth of the Bible) is enough to bring someone to faith? (see Eph. 2:8)
6. What about when we pray for a miracle and it doesn't happen? (See 1 John 5:14, Rom. 8:28, Isa. 55:9, 2 Cor. 12:7-10, John 11:25)
7. The end of the film suggested that mankind's biggest problems require a miracle from God to overcome them. Can you identify some of these problems?
8. Digging Deeper - How has this investigation into *The Red Sea Miracle* helped you grow in your faith?