

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 114

2/21/13

Vs. 1-8 look back at what God had done to make Israel a nation.

It is always beneficial for a people to look back to their origins, unless they continue to live in the past and not appreciate their present. Israelites needed to meditate upon the God whose works delivered their "fathers" from slavery in Egypt, and made them a nation, with a covenant law with God, and a land from God. It's pathetic to see people with slavery in their people's history, who are blind to their advantages since then.

In America's history, there have been slaves brought across its shores (for example, Irish indentured servants or Africans as household or plantation slaves), but to live with the present blessings, while complaining about the past, refuses to acknowledge the blessings that have come from God with the passing of time. Nothing in **Psalm 114** was designed to inflame the Israelites against the Egyptians because of their enslavement in the past. Christians look back at their past, grateful for their deliverance from their sins, and their perseverance toward their heavenly goal ([Hebrews 10:32-35](#)).

Verses 1-2: Jacob and Esau were twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah ([Genesis 25:26-28](#)). Esau, also named, "Edom" ([Genesis 25:30](#)), and then Jacob, whom God renamed "Israel," ([Genesis 32:24-32](#)), were the beginning of God's covenant people, "the children of Israel," and "Edomites" represented Gentiles in prophecy. Jacob fathered "Judah," and along with his other sons, the Children of Israel were thus divided into the 12 tribes of the Children of Israel. Thus, [The Children of] "Israel went out of Egypt" ([Exodus 1-14](#)), also known as "the house of Jacob," with special emphasis on the tribe of "Judah" (through whom Jesus Christ would be born, [Hebrews 7:14](#)). The "people of strange language" were the Egyptians, because their language was different from the Hebrew spoken by the Israelites.

Verses 3-6: "The sea" was the Red Sea that God divided ([Exodus 14:15-31](#)) to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, and "Jordan" River was also divided ([Joshua 3:14-17](#)) to permit the Israelites to cross over its flooded bed on dry land into their Promised Land. "The mountains skipped" when God's presence was represented on Mount Sinai at the giving of the Law to Moses ([Exodus 19:16-20](#)), and other parts of the mountains ("little hills") participated, as well. "What ails you" calls attention to the fact that these disturbances could not have been caused by anyone, except God!

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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Verses 7-8: Since "God created the heavens and the earth" ([Genesis 1:1](#); [Hebrews 11:3](#)), and God destroyed all life on the dry land of the earth with a universal flood ([Genesis 7:21-23](#)), then the "earth" and all people on it, should "tremble" (quake in awe) "at the presence of the Lord," "the God of Jacob." If the children of Israel were in awe when Moses received their Law at Mt. Sinai, how much more should all people respect "Him who *speaks* from Heaven," that is, Jesus Christ and His Law, the New Testament ([Hebrews 12:18-29](#))?

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