



February 16, 2004
Donald B. Crawford, President

THE STAND GOD AND SCIENCE

“I am convinced that God rules the earth through the laws of physics.” So said a Russian scientist by the name of Naum Volzinger.

This scientist specializes in oceanic phenomena. Volzinger is a senior researcher at St. Petersburg Institute of Oceanology. Volzinger became intrigued by the alleged parting of the Red Sea. The dry land, of course, was used by the Jews to escape their Egyptian conquerors and make their way to the Promised Land. The reason the Red Sea parted, as detailed in Exodus Chapter 14, from a biblical standpoint was as follows:

“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.”

The Lord did it, so say the Scriptures.

That, we presume, was not quite acceptable to scientist Volzinger. He was convinced that if God was involved, the parting occurred through His laws of physics. Volzinger was convinced that the parting occurred as a result of stormy weather and a shallow reef rather than divine intervention. Volzinger set out to research the matter and spent six months studying the tides, winds and reefs common to the Red Sea. He then developed a series of differential equations to chart out the parting of the waters as detailed in Exodus 14. The research determined that if a strong wind blew at 30 meters per second over a shallow reef, that wind could have blown the reef dry. That could have happened, Volzinger states, because some 3,500 years ago when the Red Sea parted, the reef which still exists in the northern part of the Gulf of Suez was much closer to the surface than now. Therefore, Mother Nature or the laws of physics at work would not have had such a formidable task. Considering the depth of that reef, Volzinger calculated how much wind speed would have been needed to blow the water from the formation at low tide. That he assumed was the only way the miracle could happen. He then calculated how long the now-dry reef would stay dry, and when the seas would come crashing back. He concluded that, at minimum, the area would need to stay dry for some four and a half hours. There were some 600,000 Jews on the march, and it would have taken them four hours to cross the seven-kilometer reef running from one coast to the other. At or about the four and one half hour mark, the seas could come crashing back and none of the soon-to-be Israelites would have been harmed. Volzinger concluded that was more than reasonable, and in his infinite wisdom, thought it would be acceptable to place credibility in this event because of the laws of physics at work. In his view, the parting had nothing to do with miracle, but only the laws of physics. It is well to note a certain scientific validation for this incredible historical and spiritual event. But it once again shows the arrogance of science and scientists who simply will not accept the miraculous, God Almighty at work in His very own creation.

Volzinger went on to clearly specify that his approach was “strictly from Isaac Newton’s point of view.” He indicated he had not informed any religious organizations of his findings, and probably intended not to.

After all, why provide any evidence or rationale which might substantiate the miraculous.

The laws of physics, whatever they are, are God's laws. I for one believe this God, the maker of heaven and earth, can do whatever He pleases with His very own creation, or these so-called laws. What we mortals regard as a miracle, the miraculous and extraordinary, is really nothing more than the God who created the universe at work in His ordinary way.