



Proposed Hypotheses on the Parting of the Red Sea

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Why in News?

The story of parting the [Red Sea](#) for the **Hebrews to escape from Egypt** is seen as a miracle in the **Book of Exodus**. But now, some researchers have looked at this story in a different way, **explaining it using some [meteorological phenomena](#)**.

What are the Recent Meteorological Hypotheses Related to Parting of the Red Sea?



- The researchers propose **4 potential meteorological phenomena** that could have temporarily parted the waters of the Red Sea:
 - **Medicane:** These [hurricane-like storms](#) in the Mediterranean can cause extreme **negative storm surges**, pushing coastal waters back and exposing landmasses.
 - The researchers note **Hurricane Irma's effect on Florida's coastline** as a similar example.
 - **Wind Setdown:** Sustained high-speed winds could temporarily expose raised reefs in the

Gulf of Suez, facilitating a passage.

- The Bible mentions an "**east wind**" **during the Exodus**, which aligns with this phenomenon.
- **Tidal Resonance:** When external forces like **strong winds coincide with a location's natural tidal patterns**, it can result in unusually low tides and expose large areas of seabed.
 - The **Bay of Fundy** on the US-Canada border in the North Atlantic is a prominent example of this phenomenon.
- **Rossby Waves:** These large-scale waves in **oceans and atmosphere**, caused by **Earth's rotation**, can shift water masses.
 - Their **occurrence in the Red Sea** could have temporarily created a shallow or dry pathway for the Israelites.
 - **Napoleon Bonaparte's** historical account during his Egyptian campaign also mentioned crossing the Red Sea amidst tidal changes.
- However, the study's conclusions are limited by the **uncertainties of ancient geography and climate**, as well as the inherent challenges of modeling complex natural phenomena. Further research and archaeological work are needed to strengthen the evidence.

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