

## **Destruction of the Pharaoh's Host**

By John Martin, 1789-1854

Ink, 1824



Martin is best known for his vast apocalyptic landscapes full of drama and spectacle. One of these is a watercolour he made in 1836, now in the collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, to which this tiny sketch relates.

The subject depicted is the biblical story of Moses releasing the waters of the Red Sea, drowning the Egyptian army after allowing the fleeing Israelites to cross.

Despite the small scale of the drawing, the artist's skilful penmanship brilliantly conveys the energy and epic scale of the unfolding drama.

The Harris has a painting that takes the same Bible story as its subject. You can see it on display at the top of the staircase on the second floor virtual tour on our website. It is by Francis Danby, who was a contemporary of Martin. Painted in 1825, *The Delivery of Israel out of Egypt* depicts Moses parting the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to cross.

Purchased in 1930