

The Song of Moses, Celebrating God's Deliverance of His People Israel from Egypt

Exodus 15:1-21

Exodus 15:1-21 – *"Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying:*

"I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

² *The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation;*

He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

³ *The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name.*

⁴ *Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;*

His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ *The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.*

⁶ *"Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power;*

Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

⁷ *And in the greatness of Your excellence*

You have overthrown those who rose against You;

You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.

⁸ *And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together;*

The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths ^[a]congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ *The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;*

My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword,

My hand shall destroy them.' ¹⁰ *You blew with Your wind,*

The sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ *"Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness,*

Fearful in praises, doing wonders? ¹² You stretched out Your right hand;

The earth swallowed them. ¹³ You in Your mercy have led forth

The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength

To Your holy habitation.

¹⁴ *"The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.*

¹⁵ *Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab,*

Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

¹⁶ *Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm*

They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord,

Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.

¹⁷ *You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance,*

In the place, O Lord, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

¹⁸ “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.” ¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. ²¹ And Miriam answered them:

“Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!”

Background Notes

The Song of Moses in Exodus 15 is the first song in the Bible. Did you realize that? Maybe I should add a little asterisk to this statement, thought, because in Job 38:7 we read that at the time of creation the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy! So we really should say that Exodus 15 is the first song sung by humans that is recorded in the Bible -- and it may be the earliest recorded song in the world.

The song of Moses is a song of praise and thanksgiving to the LORD for His great victory over the Egyptians and His great deliverance for the children of Israel. The beginning of the song is familiar to many of us because of the old praise song based on Exodus 15:1-2 (but don't ask me to sing it!) “I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and the rider thrown into the sea. The Lord my God, my strength, my song, has now become my victory. The Lord is God, and I will praise Him. The Lord is God, and I will exalt Him!” Did you know that we may sing the Song of Moses in heaven? Look at Revelation 15:2-3: “...*They held harps given to them by God and sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb...*” The song of Moses in Revelation 15:3 may be the same song of Moses that is recoded in Exodus 15.

In Exodus 15:20 we see that Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, was a prophetess in Israel. God greatly blessed this family with spiritual gifts and responsibilities -- didn't He? Miriam led all the women in the song of Moses, with dancing and timbrels, or tambourines. You're probably thinking of Miriam as a young woman, dancing and singing here -- right? Wrong! At this point, Miriam was probably over 90 years old! Remember, at the time of the exodus from Egypt Moses was 80 years old, and Miriam was older than Moses. Miriam was the older sister who watched over baby Moses when he was placed in the river in a basket, so Miriam was already a young girl when Moses was born in Exodus 2.

Doctrinal Points

1. The Song of Moses is prophetic of the joy in the future for Israel.

In this song of Moses, the children of Israel joyfully sang of the Lord's power over the enemies of His people, in delivering them from danger. Look again at verses 6-7: “*Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of Your majesty, You threw down those who opposed You. You unleashed Your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.*” And verses 11-13: “*Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth*

swallowed them. In Your unfailing love, You will lead the people you have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling."

Just as Israel sang of God's majestic power over the enemy and His awesome deliverance of His people after the crossing of the Red Sea, so Israel will sing when the Lord restores them as a nation in the future – a nation that has returned to Him. When the nation of Israel returns to the Lord, the Lord will fight for Israel, and they will joyfully sing of God's triumph over their enemies and His great and loving deliverance and redemption.

We see this in several of the prophetic Psalms about Israel. Listen to the words of Psalm 98, that restored Israel will sing to the Lord in the future. Psalm 98:1-3 – *"Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."*

It's important to realize that "the house of Israel" mentioned here is **not** a reference to the Church. The "house of Israel" is **restored Israel** in the future. Israel will sing their new song in the future, after the Lord's return, and after the Tribulation Period, and after the Battle of Armageddon, and after the Lord has set up His Millennial Kingdom with Israel as the head of the nations. Then Israel will sing joyfully to the Lord for His loving-kindness to them. The Song of Moses is prophetic of joy in the future for Israel.

2. The Song of Moses is "typical" of the joy in the present for Christians.

Israel rejoiced in the Lord's salvation in the Song of Moses. We, too, should rejoice in the Lord's salvation. I hope you're a joyful Christian because you've been redeemed; Satan has been conquered, and the power of sin has been broken. The song of Moses pictures the joy that we should experience in our Christian walk.

The Song of Moses is also a type, in the sense of a Scriptural *type*. (Remember, a *type* is an Old Testament person, place, event, or other item that pictures New Testament truth.)

Follow the extended type that we have here in these chapters in Exodus. In Exodus 12, the blood of the Passover lamb applied to the homes is a wonderful type, or spiritual picture, of our salvation. In Exodus 13, the consecration of the firstborn to the Lord typifies or pictures the believer's consecration or separation unto the Lord. In Exodus 14, passing through the Red Sea is a type of our identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and our deliverance from the power of sin. I Corinthians 10:2 says that the Children of Israel were baptized into Moses—that is, they were identified with Moses as they went into and passed through the Red Sea, and as they came up out of the sea on the "resurrection side." In the same way, we have been baptized into Christ—that is, we are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Romans 6:3-5 – *"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection."* This great truth of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, is pictured in our water baptism as believers, and it is typified in Israel's passing through the waters of the Red Sea.

In Exodus 15, the Song of Redemption is a spiritual picture of The Song of the Redeemed. Read Romans 8 in this connection. This chapter ends with those well-known verses 37-39: *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Savior."*

Do you see the extended spiritual picture that we have in Exodus 12-15? Chapter 12: Salvation from Sin; Chapter 13: Separation unto the Lord; Chapter 14: Deliverance from the power of sin; and Chapter 15: The Song of the Redeemed. The Song of Moses is typical of the joy in the present for Christians.

Practical Application

Let singing be part of your Christian lifestyle.

As a Christian, do you sing? Well, if you don't, you should -- because it's a command in the Bible! Did you know that? Colossians 3:16, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."* This command is not just for congregational singing -- it's also for individual singing!

Notice that the verse does not say that we have to sing well, does it? And it doesn't say that we have to sing as an individual or in a praise team before others! No, we don't have to get up and sing solos in church -- but we are to sing! How many of you sing Christian praise songs and hymns when you're driving alone? I do -- and no one's there to laugh when I miss a note or sing the wrong words! And It's great to sing as a family, as well. Sing while you're driving on a trip, or on your way to church. How many Christian families sing together? It's a good thing to do.

As Israel sang with joy to the Lord, so we too should sing with joy to the Lord. Let singing be part of your Christian lifestyle!