

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

8-26-20

Exodus 15

Israel sings praises to God for His victory and salvation-The Song of Moses (1-5)

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. ²"The LORD is my strength and my defense; 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 warrior; the LORD is his name. ⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. ⁵ The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

15:1 Music played an important part in Israel's worship and celebration. Singing was an expression of love and thanks, and it was a creative way to pass down oral traditions. Some say this song of Moses is the oldest recorded song in the world. It was a festive epic poem celebrating God's victory, lifting the hearts and voices of the people outward and upward. After having been delivered from great danger, they sang with joy! Psalms and hymns can be great ways to express relief, praise, and thanks when you have been through trouble.

15:2 They rejoiced about the victory God had over the Egyptians. They gave all the credit to God. It is very clear that all the credit belongs to God. Yet many times even when it is clear that God deserves the credit people take it for themselves. We should remember to always give God the credit for the successes in our lives.

15:3 The Israelites recognized the just side of God's character and called Him a "warrior". We don't generally think of God as a warrior so what does this phrase mean to you? It means that God is not only loving and merciful. He can and will punish the sinners who reject Him. Also warriors protect their families so God will protect us too.

Israel sings praises to God for His victory and salvation - Verses 6-13

⁶Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.⁷"In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. ⁸ By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹ The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'¹⁰ But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹ Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? ¹² "You stretch out your right hand, and the

earth swallows your enemies. ¹³ In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

15:6-12 How did they praise God in these verses? Firstly, they praised God for His superiority to all other gods and by implication His superiority to everything else. They asked some rhetorical questions and the answers are clear. There is no one like God. God already demonstrated this by humbling the Egyptian “gods” and magicians/priests. The number of ways to praise God is unlimited because God is unlimited.

15:13 God's motivation for saving them. It wasn't because they were lovable or deserved it. It wasn't a reward. It was because of His mercy, because of His love. It was His choice to show this mercy to them to save them. Once He saved them He didn't desert them. He continued to lead them. We can see this theme throughout the whole Old Testament. Even when man is unfaithful, God remains faithful. God never forgets and God never abandons His people.

Israel sings praises to God for His victory and salvation - Verses 14-19

¹⁴ The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. ¹⁵ The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away; ¹⁶ terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone—until your people pass by, LORD, until the people you bought pass by. ¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance—the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established. ¹⁸ “The LORD reigns for ever and ever.” ¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

15:14 God's miracles weren't done in a vacuum. He had purposes for them even beyond Egypt and the Israelites. One of these purposes was to show His power to all the pagan nations in that area, especially the ones in the Promised Land where the Israelites were going. They heard what God had done. They knew He was the true God and their gods were nothing. Remember that God had said He did these miracles for the purpose of letting all nations know that He was the LORD. Now they did. But instead of repenting and turning to God, most of these people hardened their hearts further and refused to give in to what they knew was the truth.

15:16-17 Verse 16 says that God purchased them. They belonged to God. He owned them. This should give them even more motivation to serve God. As we learn in Romans 12:1-2, we should be living sacrifices to God. Give our lives to Him in response to all that He has done for us.

The Song of Miriam - Verses 20-21

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.”

15:20 Miriam was called a prophet not only because she received revelations from God (Micah 6:4) but also for her musical skill. Prophecy and music were often closely related in the Bible (1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Chronicles 25:1).

15:21 Are we actively praising God in our lives? Praising God is something done publicly and privately. It is something done with our mouth, but also with our hearts. The music and tone of voice is not so important to God, but making a joyful noise is. Praise is the fifth finger on the hand of prayer.

God Provides Water at Marah for the Israelites - Verses 22-27

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. ²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you." ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

15:24 Are we sometimes like the Israelites, praising God in church on Sundays and then days later grumbling or forgetting what he has done for us? What is the solution? How can we praise God continually throughout the week? How can we maintain a heart of gratitude? The Israelites were so emotional and excited and enthralled and joyful just three days before. Now they quickly forgot again all that God had done for them. This is just like when they were next to the Red Sea and the Egyptians were coming. Human's fleshly nature is just like this. We quickly forget the good things that God has done for us and focus on the difficult things right in front of us. Grumbling and complaining is easier than being thankful.

15:26 God promised that if the people obeyed him, they would not suffer from the diseases that plagued the Egyptians. Little did they know that many of the moral laws he later gave them were designed to keep them free from sickness. For example, following God's law against prostitution would keep them free of venereal disease. God's laws for us are often designed to keep us from harm. Men and women are complex beings. Our physical, emotional, and spiritual lives are intertwined. Modern medicine is now acknowledging what these laws assumed. If we want God to care for us, we need to submit to his directions for living.

15:27 The water at the oasis of Marah is contrasted with the springs at the oasis of Elim. Marah stood for the unbelieving, grumbling attitude of the people who would not trust God. Elim stands for God's bountiful provision. How easy it is to grumble and complain too quickly, only to be embarrassed by God's help! We must be patient for God's kindness and help. Don't let a negative attitude erode your trust in God.