

## Lesson 8      18<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

### The Song of Moses

**Lesson Scope:** [Exodus 15:1-21](#)

*References in brackets refer to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise*

#### Lesson Focus

God had brought Israel out of Egypt with a strong hand. Only three days later, they knew that Pharaoh had changed his mind when they saw his army approaching. This lesson follows Israel's deliverance. Israel had just come through the Red Sea on dry ground, escaping the pursuing Egyptian army and seeing them overpowered by the returning water. Their dead bodies on the seashore graphically illustrated the deliverance they had just experienced. Emotions ran high with joy and thanksgiving.

Begin this lesson with a brief review of a few days preceding this Song of Moses. Then focus on the content of the song and be inspired to recognize that this same God is doing wonderful things for His people today, and that we have much reason to praise Him. Call your class to a life of holiness that the mighty wonders of God can shine out of their lives and bring glory to Him through their faithfulness rather than through their destruction.

**Lesson Aim:** To present inspiration from the song of Moses.

**Theme Verse:** [Isaiah 25:1](#) O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

#### Lesson Text

**"The LORD ... Hath Triumphed Gloriously"**

[Exodus 15:1-10](#) Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. <sup>2</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. <sup>3</sup> The

LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. <sup>4</sup> “Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. <sup>5</sup> The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. <sup>6</sup> Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. <sup>7</sup> In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. <sup>8</sup> At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. <sup>9</sup> The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’ <sup>10</sup> You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

### **"Who Is Like Unto Thee, O LORD?"**

**Exodus 15:11-16** “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? <sup>12</sup> You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. <sup>13</sup> “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. <sup>14</sup> The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. <sup>15</sup> Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. <sup>16</sup> Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.

### **"Sing Ye to the LORD"**

**Exodus 15:17-21** You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. <sup>18</sup> The LORD will reign forever and ever.” <sup>19</sup> For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. <sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

## Questions for Study

### "The LORD ... Hath Triumphed Gloriously"

1. What does 15:9 reveal about Pharaoh?
2. How might we be guilty of pride without bragging?
3. How should we respond to God's help?
4. How do we "prepare" a habitation for God (15:2)?

### "Who Is Like Unto Thee, O LORD?"

5. Name some ways this song describes God's superiority.
6. What are some ways we should acknowledge God's superiority?

### "Sing Ye to the LORD"

7. Is there a connection between preparing a habitation for God (15:2) and dwelling in the sanctuary the Lord made for His people (15:17)? Explain.
8. When is it appropriate to praise God? Why?

## Analyzing the Passage

The word excellency as used in verse 7 refers to God's majesty, splendor, or dignity, but the same Hebrew word is also translated pride and used in a negative sense. When man talks of his own excellency, he is proud because he only uses the ability that was given by another, but God is excellent in His own right and by His own power.

The word destroy in verse 9 comes from a Hebrew word frequently translated possess. What Moses was saying is that Pharaoh wanted to repossess them, not that he wanted to annihilate them.

The question "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?" (15:11) was making a comparison between Pharaoh's gods and Israel's God. The word translated gods means "mighty ones," and is often used to refer to deity. It seems that Pharaoh may have considered himself a deity. At the least, he saw himself as a mighty one, capable of contending with the almighty God.

## Principles and Applications

### "The LORD ... Hath Triumphed Gloriously"

1. Deliverance calls for songs of praise (15:1). The relief of deliverance coupled with the miraculous events that made their deliverance possible inspired Moses and Israel to praise God in song. To the child of God, thanksgiving and praise should spring forth as a natural response to God

for His mercy and deliverance. The Lord deserves our praise and thanksgiving because "in him we live, and move, and have our being."

2. The Lord is our personal God, dwelling within us (15:2). Moses declared, "I will prepare him [God] an habitation." Although God did not indwell the Old Testament saints as He does New Testament saints, yet Moses was preparing himself so that God could live within him. How much more should the New Testament believer cleanse himself from the filthiness of the flesh and mind, so that he is a dwelling place for a holy God!

3. Rebellious men are no match for our great God (15:3-7). Man is frail when compared with God, who created him. God holds man's breath in His hand. Man was foolish to think that he could destroy the Son of God, yet men tried to do just that when they crucified Him. This came as a result of man not accepting God as God. Many men today try to theorize how this world came into being without God, even when evidence reveals that God created it. In the end all men will stand before Almighty God to answer for their unbelief.

4. God can use His creation to judge the wicked (15:8, 10). God used the wind and water to deliver Israel. Men try to discredit the miracle of crossing the Red Sea by explaining it as a natural happening. God uses winds, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, and fire to bring judgment on wicked men, to subdue the proud, or to deliver His people. What the wicked consider as chance happenings of nature may actually be intricately planned events designed by God to fulfill His purpose.

5. Man's boasting is subject to God's sovereignty (15:9). Pharaoh's plan seemed foolproof. Israel appeared to have wandered into a trap. All Pharaoh needed to do was to shut off their escape, and Israel would be his again. Pharaoh had planned the recapture of Israel, but he did not reckon with God.

Today it is easy to plan to buy and sell and get gain, or to lay up riches for many years, but God may have other plans for us. The man of God acknowledges God's claim on his life when his plans include "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15; see also Luke 12:18-20).

### **"Who Is Like Unto Thee, O LORD?"**

6. God's power and holiness are incomparable (15:11). Moses asked the question "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?" The im-

plied answer is "no one." Israel's escape through the Red Sea and the subsequent destruction of the Egyptian army amply proved the superiority of God's power. God's ability to execute perfectly fair retribution, to be perfect, and to judge without bias sets Him apart as gloriously holy, far above any rival. His wonders warrant the fear and reverence of finite men.

7. God in mercy guides His people (15:13). God led Israel with a cloud and an angel (14:19; Numbers 20:16). God led Peter safely out of prison. God took hold of Lot and in mercy led him out of Sodom. We can trust God to lead us out of temptation, away from the world, and into the kingdom of heaven if we are committed to follow. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

8. The wicked fear the power of God (15:14-16). The nations around feared the God of Israel because they knew that they were not equal in strength to Him. Forty years later, Rahab chose to hide the spies and to plead for mercy, rather than turn them in to her people, because of the Red Sea deliverance (Joshua 2:8-14). Men today can choose as Pharaoh did to resist God and die, or as Rahab to surrender to God and live. Physical death may not come as quickly as it did for Pharaoh, but the judgment is fearful.

### **"Sing Ye to the LORD"**

9. God will establish His people forever (15:17-18). The Lord promised the land of Canaan to the children of Israel if they would be faithful to Him. Those same conditions apply to God's promises to establish His people today. Men must diligently consider their ways lest they fail to appropriate God's power to live a righteous and holy life. See Deuteronomy 11:8-17 and Hebrews 12:4-17.

10. Praising God often inspires others to do the same (15:20-21). Those who doubted God before the Red Sea now joined the faithful in singing praises. It is much better to praise God than to join others in murmuring. Just as Miriam and the women of Israel joined Moses, often others will join us in a response of joy when we choose to focus on the deliverance rather than the trial. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

## **Important Teachings**

1. Deliverance calls for songs of praise (15:1).
2. The Lord is our personal God, dwelling within us (15:2).
3. Rebellious men are no match for our great God (15:3-7).
4. God can use His creation to judge the wicked (15:8, 10).
5. Man's boasting is subject to God's sovereignty (15:9).
6. God's power and holiness are incomparable (15:11).
7. God in mercy guides His people (15:13).
8. The wicked fear the power of God (15:14-16).
9. God will establish His people forever (15:17-18).
10. Praising God often inspires others to do the same (15:20-21).

## **Answers to Questions**

1. What does 15:9 reveal about Pharaoh?

Pharaoh's thoughts expressed in this song reveal an attitude of pride, common to man, but abhorrent to God. In 14:3 God reveals to Moses some of Pharaoh's thinking.

2. How might we be guilty of pride without bragging?

Some men become very good at trying to talk humbly, but they look down on others. They manipulate others, and have a high opinion of themselves. Pride in the heart is as abhorrent to God as pride expressed with the lips or in appearance.

3. How should we respond to God's help?

We should thank God for His help and praise Him in song. We should tell others about God and His help. "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2). "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8).

4. How do we "prepare" a habitation for God (15:2)?

We prepare a habitation for the Lord by glorifying God in our body and in our spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We also build a habitation for God by separating ourselves from sin and living a holy life (2 Corinthians 6:17).

5. Name some ways this song describes God's superiority.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea" (15:4). "Thou

hast overthrown them that rose up against thee" (15:7). "With the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together" (15:8). "Thou stretchest out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them" (15:12). "Thou has guided them in thy strength" (15:13).

6. What are some ways we should acknowledge God's superiority?

We acknowledge God by surrendering to His will and by seeking direction from Him for life. We also acknowledge God as superior by singing praises to Him and by pointing others to Him.

7. Is there a connection between preparing a habitation for God (15:2) and dwelling in the sanctuary the Lord made for His people (15:17)? Explain.

Moses prepared his life as a habitation for God. Moses and his fellow Israelites that also prepared a habitation for God were led by God and privileged to rest in the habitation God prepared for them. Those that did not prepare a habitation for God died in the wilderness. God will lead man and give him rest if he prepares a habitation for God by cleansing his life from sin.

8. When is it appropriate to praise God? Why?

Praise to God is always in season, because God is good. Even when it seems that life is not fair or that all is lost, God is still working for the good of those who love Him. In the worst of times, God sustains those that fear Him. See Habakkuk 3:17-19.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

The Lord is almighty. He directs the events of nature for the good of His people. The man of God carefully credits any successes he may have to God. He realizes that "in him we live, and move, and have our being" and that He "hath made us, and not we ourselves." God is worthy of all honor and praise for His wonderful works. May we be careful to "give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" and in trust follow Him throughout life.

Only the matchless power of Almighty God can provide deliverance. Those who experience His marvelous work respond in worship and adoration.

## **Research Guide**

1. Read Psalms 105 and 106 for inspiration from other songs.
2. Notice some other songs of Moses and Israel: Numbers 21:17-18; Deuteronomy 32:1-43; Revelation 15:3-4.