

## Lesson 7 – 13 March 2011

### The Song of Moses

**Lesson Scope:** [Exodus 13:17-15:21](#)

#### Lesson Focus

God had just worked mightily on behalf of Israel as He prepared an escape for them through the Red Sea and destroyed their enemies. God received much honor through the Red Sea experience, and the fear of God spread among the heathen.

Because of Israel's wonderful deliverance from Egypt and through the Red Sea, God had a special claim upon them. He frequently reminded them that He was the one who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, and thus deserved their loyalty.

The spiritual significance of the Red Sea deliverance is its parallel to the believer's initial salvation experience. The work is wholly the Lord's. The believer's part is to cry out in faith to God and then to "stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." Following this beginning, the believer must employ God's power for a victorious walk through life's daily trials.

God miraculously saved Israel at the Red Sea. In his song of deliverance, Moses gave God all the glory for His marvelous work on their behalf.

We see a picture here of what God can do and wants to do for His people. It is not easy to "stand still" and "hold your peace." We need to trust God to do what we cannot do ourselves. God delights in guiding His people as they respond to Him.

Notice the descriptive details of this song. "The blast of thy nostrils" (Exodus 15:8) and "didst blow with thy wind" (Exodus 15:10) describe how God parted the Red Sea. That the waters were "congealed" (Exodus 15:8) suggests that they were frozen. However God did it, He made the waters stand up as a wall. Comparing Exodus 15:12 with Psalm 77:18 also introduces some thought-provoking ideas.

**Lesson Aim:** To learn lessons from Moses' song of deliverance.

**Theme Verse:** [Exodus 15:2](#): “The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him and habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.”

**Lesson Text.**

**"He Hath Triumphed Gloriously"**

[Exodus 15:1-10](#)

“Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; 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 hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. <sup>5</sup>The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. <sup>6</sup>Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. <sup>7</sup>And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, *which* consumed them as stubble. <sup>8</sup>And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, *and* the depths were 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 lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. <sup>10</sup>Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.”

**"Who Is Like Unto Thee?"**

[Exodus 15:11-16](#)

“Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders? <sup>12</sup>Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. <sup>13</sup>Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people *which* thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided *them* in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. <sup>14</sup>The people shall hear, *and* be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. <sup>15</sup>Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. <sup>16</sup>Fear and dread shall fall upon

them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be *as* still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, *which* thou hast purchased.”

### **"Thou Shalt ... Plant Them"**

#### **Exodus 15:17-21**

“Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, *in* the place, O LORD, *which* thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, *which* thy hands have established. <sup>18</sup>The LORD shall reign for ever and ever. <sup>19</sup>For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry *land* in the midst of the sea.

<sup>20</sup>And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.”

### **Questions for Study**

#### **"He Hath Triumphed Gloriously"**

1. What inspired the singing of this song?
2. List some enemies God will help us overcome.

#### **"Who Is Like Unto Thee?"**

3. What attributes of God are evident here?
4. How did Israel's deliverance affect the heathen?
5. What acts of God amaze the heathen today?

#### **"Thou Shalt ... Plant Them"**

6. How was this deliverance to inspire Israel?
7. What are some past deliverances that inspire God's people?
8. How can we praise God today?

### **Analyzing the Passage**

Moses was a prolific songwriter. Three of his hymns have been preserved for us in the Bible (Exodus 15. Psalm 90: Deuteronomy 31 and 32). The first hymn was sung by the shore of the Red Sea. The second, a prayer hymn, was likely composed in Israel's wilderness wanderings. The third hymn was sung near the banks of Jordan.

Revelation 15:3 records a future singing of the song of Moses the servant of God.

The focus of the poetic hymn in Exodus 15, as in the prose account of the story, is on God Himself. The word LORD appears eleven times in the song. The phrase "I will sing" (Exodus 15: 1) is a typical beginning for hymns of victory and praise in the Bible (Judges 5:3. Psalm 89: 1: 101: 1: 108:1). Moses uses three interesting similes a stone:' (Exodus 15:5) "as an heap" (Exodus 15:8)-, "as lead," (Exodus 15:10). Sinking like a stone is also applied to Babylon, another of Israel's enemies (Jeremiah 51:63-64).

The question "Who is like thee O Lord among the gods?" Exodus 15:11 rivets the thought that God, who has no rival, is the one who had defeated the gods of Egypt and their worshipers. In chapter 15, verses 13 and 17 indicate the premium God places on the proper worship of His delivered people.

### **Principles and Applications**

#### **"He Hath Triumphed Gloriously"**

1. We should have a song in our hearts and on our lips for God's great works on our behalf (Exodus 15:1). The things that cause us the greatest fears should result in our loudest praises. When have we last praised God for deliverance and victory? Singing should be a natural response for God's people. We should be joyful as we go about our work. Even when it is not appropriate to be singing, we should have a pleasant countenance. Singing can witness to the lost at times and in ways that are not otherwise possible. "I will sing unto the LORD, because He hath dealt bountifully with me" (Psalm 13:6).

2. It is only through God's salvation that we can be the habitation of God (Exodus 15:2). Only God can change our lives and make them fit for His dwelling place. When God dwells within us He can be our Father and we His sons and daughters. "For ye are the temple of the living God. as God hath said. I will dwell in them, and walk in them: and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

3. The Lord is well able to overcome our spiritual enemies if we trust in Him. (Exodus 15:3-7). Pharaoh, his army, his chariots, and his horsemen were no match for God. Nebuchadnezzar's most mighty

men were destroyed when they cast the three Hebrews into the furnace. Satan and all his forces are weak before our great God. At the end of time, God will cast them into the lake of fire.

The challenge for us is to trust God completely. Can we trust God for a way to raise godly families for Him? Can we be faithful in times of prosperity and spiritual complacency that so often result in apostasy? Can we resist the lure of the world with its many attractions? The same power is available for us to experience complete victory!

### **"Who Is Like Unto Thee?"**

4. Our God is incomparable in holiness and miraculous power (Exodus 15:11). Who is like unto our God? No one. God is perfect and sinless. - Holy, holy holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory- (Isaiah 6:3). God's power is beyond our comprehension. He created and sustains all things. He controls the elements of nature. God is so big that the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, yet He cares about the details of each of our lives. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

5. The Lord delights in guiding the redeemed to His holy habitation (Exodus 15:13, 17). God guided Israel until they reached the Promised Land. Many times the Bible speaks of God leading His people as a shepherd leads his sheep. God has given us His Word, the example of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to lead us. He places shepherds over the church to guide His people. God desires that His people dwell with Him in eternity. The death of His saints is precious. since they have reached home and are in no more danger of failing.

6. The world notices the victories of God's people (Exodus 15:14-16). The crossing at the Red Sea caused many nations to fear Israel. Forty years later at Jericho, Rahab told the two spies, "I know that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt" (Joshua 2: 9-10).

The world is still watching God's people. They notice how God makes a way for His people. He has provided so that we can have Christian schools. We have Bible-based textbooks and Christian teachers. God has blessed our brotherhood assistance program so that

we have been able to meet the needs among us. May the world continue to see that we have been with Jesus.

### **"Thou Shalt ... Plant Them"**

7. God's past deliverance should inspire faith in His future deliverance (Exodus 15: 14-18). The God of our fathers (Exodus 15:2) is our God today. What He has done in the past, He is able to do yet today. When our forefathers suffered persecution, God sustained them and provided a land of freedom. He has preserved the church through centuries of opposition. Like the three Hebrews, we know that "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us" (Daniel 3:17).

8. Praising God for His great works often inspires others to do the same (Exodus 15:20, 21). Here Miriam sang, and all the women followed her. Sincere praise draws others to praise, just as murmuring and complaining spreads to others. God's people have much to praise Him for. He alone is worthy of all praise and adoration.

"Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings" (Psalm 9:1 1). "By him therefore let us offer the of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving sacrifice and thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

### **Important Teachings**

1. We should have a song in our hearts and on our lips for God's great works on our behalf (Exodus 15:1).
2. It is only through God's salvation that we can be the habitation of God (Exodus 15:2).
3. The Lord is well able to overcome our spiritual enemies if we trust in Him (Exodus 15:3-7).
4. Our God is incomparable in holiness and miraculous power (Exodus 15:11).
5. The Lord delights in guiding the redeemed to His holy habitation (Exodus 15:13-17).
6. The world notices the victories of God's people (Exodus 15:14-16).
7. God's past deliverance should inspire faith in His future deliverance (Exodus 15:14-18).
8. Praising God for His great works often inspires others to do the same (Exodus 15:20-21).

## Answers to Questions

1. What inspired the singing of this song?

Israel had just had a marvelous deliverance at the Red Sea. God had made a path for them through the Red Sea but had drowned their enemies, the Egyptians. Pharaoh and his mighty men were dead.

2. List some enemies God will help us overcome.

God can help us overcome the opposition of Satan and his forces. He can make a way to raise godly families. He can help us use prosperity to advance the work of His kingdom. By His help, we can overcome the attractions of the world and not fall into apostasy.

3. What attributes of God are evident here?

God is omnipotent. He causes the forces of nature to do His will. His mercy on His people and justice on His enemies are evident. God is glorious in holiness. He is without comparison. God is eternal, and His reign is forever.

4. How did Israel's deliverance affect the heathen?

The heathen were amazed and afraid. They realized that they were helpless before Israel's God. Forty years later, the inhabitants of Canaan were still trembling because of God's great deliverance.

5. What acts of God amaze the heathen today?

God's ability to provide for His people amazes the world. Through the church, the needs among us are met in ways far better than any insurance company could meet them. God continues to provide teachers and curriculum for our schools without the help of the world.

6. How was this deliverance to inspire Israel?

It was to inspire Israel that God could deliver them no matter what they faced. God could certainly provide their daily needs. God would lead them to the Promised Land and "plant them in the mountain of [His] inheritance" (Exodus 15:17).

7. What are some past deliverances that inspire God's people?

The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 are an inspiration to us. God delivered His people through various times of persecution. He provided His people a land of freedom to serve Him and spread the Gospel. Men have never been able to destroy the Word of God.

8. How can we praise God today?

We can praise God by singing and being joyful. Thanking God for

His countless blessings to us brings praise to Him. Living in victory testifies of the sufficiency of His provisions. Testifying to others brings glory to God.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

"The LORD shall reign for ever and ever" (Exodus 15:18). This may have been the grand chorus of the song of Moses. God's dominion is everlasting: not only under the Law but also under the Gospel; not only in time but also in eternity. Pharaoh's reign had ended, but God's reign will extend infinitely.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works" (Psalm 145:3-5).

### **Research Guide**

1. Read the lesson scope to read the actual account at the Red Sea.
2. Read various other hymns of praise in the Bible.
3. Psalm 77:14-20 gives some additional details concerning Israel's deliverance.