**The Gospel According to Moses**

**The Song of the Redeemed**

**Exodus 15:1-21**

August 29, 2021

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We are working our way through the Old Testament book of Exodus in our sermon series, the Gospel According Moses, looking at Exodus 15:1-15:21 today. This is a song, Israel’s response to God’s deliverance. My big idea is, the redeemed celebrate who God is and what he has done by singing.

The song has four stanzas as you can see in your ESV Bible, verses 1-3, verses 4-10, verses 11-12, and verses 13-18. We will look at each of these stanzas.

**We Sing Because God Saves (1-3)**

There is this reoccurring theme in the bible, God saves so his people sing. We see it here and in the psalms in the Old Testament. We see it in the New Testament with hymns about Christ and then in Revelation. This passage is the song of the redeemed celebrating their deliverance. The first three verses summarize the song. They sing because the Lord has triumphed gloriously in saving Israel. The reference to my father’s God reminds us of human sin and God’s promise of redemption. Finally, God is described as a man of war[[1]](#footnote-1) who protects his people and avenges his enemies.[[2]](#footnote-2) The song, like all good worship songs, is about God, who he is and what he has done (see Ps 9:1-12). We sing because God saves.

**We Sing Because God Executes Justice (4-10)**

Verses 4-10 describes the crossing of the Red Sea poetically. Notice that he describes how God has cast the Egyptians into the sea who sunk like a stone (4-5). There was no one like the Egyptians at that time. Pharoah was the most powerful man, Egypt the most powerful nation, and their military was unparalleled, yet God cast them down like rag dolls.

Then God is praised for his wrath (6-7). Listen to the language, the Lord shatters his enemies, he overthrows his adversaries, his fury consumes them like stubble. Some might object to a God like this; a man of war. When we think of God’s wrath we must not think of an impulsive and angry Father. God was patient for 400 and then warned Pharoah with ten plagues of increasing severity. The song praises God for executing justice, judging Egypt for oppression. If we have struggle with God’s wrath maybe it is because we underestimate God’s holiness and majesty while overestimating our own sense of morality. There are bad people in the world, but I am not one of them. But all of us are just like the Egyptians, we naturally resist God and suppress the truth yet God in his mercy overcame our resistance. For God to let injustice go unpunished would be immoral.

Look at the contrast in 8 and 9. God humbles those who exalt themselves against him. Listen to Pharaoh’s arrogance, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its full. I will draw my sword and destroy them (9). He is like the nations described in the Psalms (2:10-12; 10:12-15). Now listen to God’s response, 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 (8). The Lord sneezes and the Egyptians perish such is his great power. Israel sang because God executes justice.

**We Sing Because God is Supreme (11-12)**

Do you remember when God called Moses, he asked who shall I say sent me? What is your name (3:13)? And when Moses confronted Pharoah, his response was, who is the Lord (5:2). Now the question shifts. They now know the Lord is his name (3) but the more importance question is, who is like the Lord (11)? No one is like him, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders (11-12). Did you notice that he points to God being majestic in holiness and not his power or might? To be holy means to be set apart as unique, supreme, in a category all by himself. There is no God like him. There is no God who saves like him. This is still true today (Isa 45:22-24). There is none like our God among the kings or kingdoms of this world and certainly none like him among our politicians. When you face God one day, you will not be disappointed. They sang because God is supreme.

**We Sing because God Redeemed Us (13-18)**

Finally, they sang because of his redeeming, steadfast love. Redeem means to be purchased back with a transfer of ownership. They went from being slaves to servants of the Lord. If you are a Christian, following Christ in discipleship, God has redeemed you, purchased you with the cost of his Son. You are no longer slaves to sin and Satan but to belonging to God, a loving and merciful Father. If you are not a Christian, Jesus’ has an invitation to you. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt 11:28-30).

God leads the redeemed to his holy abode, their enemies terrified, immobilized like stones, until they arrive safely to the Promised Land. He plants them on his mountain (16-17), Mount Zion, where God will dwell with his people, looking back to Eden and forward to New Creation. How can God promise safe passage? God can say something will happen because God makes it happen. Such is the sovereign power of the One who rules forever (Mic 4:7). God redeems us dwell with him for eternity. We will dwell with the One who will not be disappointing, your only source of endless joy. This is good news for those whom God has redeemed and bad news for all the would be Pharoah’s of the world who think they can elevate themselves above God without consequence. Their reign is short lived but our God reigns forever and ever.

The Song of Moses is fulfilled in the song of the Lamb, which describes a great redemption of a new kingdom of priests, the church (Rev 15:3-4). The Exodus points to a greater Exodus accomplished by a greater Moses, Jesus Christ. He has redeemed you by his own blood as the perfect Passover Lamb who secures your future in the New Creation where we will dwell with God for eternity. How can we be sure of this? Because Jesus is the Great I am, the Lord (John 17:4). This is our hope in a sinful and broken world filled with injustice.

Life Group Questions:

1. Summarize the passage in your own words.
2. Summarize the big idea of Exodus 15:1-21.
3. What do you think of when you think of worshipping in song?
4. Describe your experience of worship in song?
5. Why do you think that we often celebrate great victories with songs?
6. How would you describe and justify God’s wrath to someone who struggled with it?
7. How is the song of Moses fulfilled in the song of the Lamb (Rev. 15:2)?
8. What does this teach us about God, humanity, and us?
9. What does this teach us about following Jesus in discipleship?
10. How is God asking you to respond to this passage?

1. NIV has warrior. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Moses told Israel to be silent and see that the Lord will for them (14:31), the Egyptians recognized that the Lord fights for Israel (14:25), the narrator recognizes that the Lord fought for Israel (14:27). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)