



The Lord is My Strength

The Song of Moses

Exodus 15

- EVERYONE deserves death
- Therefore, the ones that God saves and keeps alive are now His
- The people were to remember this lesson year after year by observing a ceremony
- We are saved by the death of Christ
- We are to remember that even though we deserved death, we have been bought with a price and are now God's
- The Israelites are trapped between two mountain ranges with the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh behind them
- *What? There weren't enough graves in Egypt?*
- After all that Moses has been through
- He still keeps his head in the right place
- He still remembers WHO has given him everything
- Exodus 14:14 KJV
 - 14) The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.
- After successfully crossing the Red Sea, Moses is inspired to sing about it
- Chapter 15
- Yes, this great military leader who was taught humility in the wilderness is also a hymn writer
- It's a wonderful ability to praise God in specific detail

- This incident in the life of Moses took place after the deliverance of their Egyptian slavery had been completed
- There is actually no action in this chapter, rather, this is a song of praise which is completely devoted to praising God for the deliverance which He gave
- The action of this book picks up after this chapter and the narrative continues with the life of Moses and the activities of the Israelites, but here it is as though the action pauses for a moment for a specific word of praise to God for what He had done

This is a unique passage in the Scripture from several standpoints:

- First, we should point out that here we have the first poetry in the Bible. There is a great deal of poetry in the Bible, as you know. Most of the book of Psalms is poetry. In The Song of Solomon, the book of Ecclesiastes, and the book of Proverbs, we find that many examples of Hebrew poetry
- Secondly, this is the first reference to singing in the Scripture, and we might point out that we have here the largest choir in all of history before or since. Verse 1 says that Moses AND the children of Israel sang this song unto the Lord. There were probably as many as two million people singing this song
- What a wonderful, beautiful sound they must have made as they sang
- Our purpose in looking at this chapter is to think about the things that it tells us about Moses himself and to think about the things that Moses said about God.
- This chapter is especially instructive about Moses himself
- Simply the fact that he would lead the people in singing a beautiful hymn of praise such as this, tells us quite a bit
- Moses was directly and personally involved in every aspect of the miraculous delivery of the Israelites out of Egypt
- It was him standing there holding out his rod and parting the Red Sea
- It would have been very easy for immature people like the Israelites to deify Moses
- Remember the last verse of the previous chapter:
- Exodus 14:31 KJV
 - 31) And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.
- That verse is written very clearly to indicate to us that Moses had a place of very high esteem in the eyes and the minds of the people

- They feared the Lord. They believed the Lord and His servant, Moses. There is a sense in which these verses are telling us that the people put Moses on the same level with God, and it would have been a very simple, small step from that to beginning to worship and deify Moses
- But Moses gives all of the glory to God
- There is no reference in this hymn to anything that Moses had done. There is no reference to any of the bravery or any of the brilliance or any of the logic of Moses
- All of the glory goes to God, so one of the most impressive things about Moses, one of the most impressive points in our study of the life of Moses, was that Moses was a mature believer
- What was that mark of maturity? The ultimate test of maturity, I think, is pointed out in the Scripture in various ways and here is one illustration of it:
 - The ultimate test of maturity is whether or not a man can give all of the glory to God
- Think about that in relation to your own life.
- Perhaps somewhere along the line, you have learned that it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Somewhere along the line, you have made yourself available to God and you have said, *“God, I am going to walk at your direction and You can use me in my office or on my campus or in my neighborhood, any way that you can,”* and God has begun to use you
- God is doing things through you and people are coming to know Christ because of you, and people who already know Christ are being helped and strengthened by your work, and you are finding opportunities to serve the Lord
- As you serve the Lord, the ultimate question comes: Is the Lord getting all the glory for that?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples?
- Matthew 5:16 KJV
 - 16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- You know, that is a very difficult instruction. It is not quite so hard to let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, but the rub comes when so often we let our light so shine and sometimes at great expense to ourselves, that men may see our good works, but we allow them to glorify us

- You work, and concentrate and put forth serious effort, and then you're supposed to let God receive all the praise
- That can be hard sometimes...
- Moses was a man of God. Moses was a mature man of God because he gave all the glory to God
- Let's look at the song...
- Exodus 15:1 KJV
 - 1) 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.
- There is a beautiful picture of salvation in this verse and in the time of this song
- Salvation is our deliverance from the presence and power of sin
- In this period of life that we are living now, in this period between the time of our Baptism and the time that we stand in His presence at the Judgment, we have not yet been delivered from the presence of sin, but deliverance from the power of sin is available to us if we will take advantage of what God has given us
- It is possible for us to be free from the power of sin. Jesus Christ died to make that possible, and the time is coming when we stand in the Lord's presence in when we will be free not only from the power of sin, but also from the presence of sin
- So what we have in this chapter is a little picture of what is in store for us
- We will sing a song of praise to God very similar to this. In fact it is an interesting thing to notice that the book of Revelation tells us as John looked into Heaven and saw what was taking place in the future that the people gathered around the throne of God sang the song of Moses
- The only song that we know of as a song of Moses is this one
- The day is coming when we, too, will be free from the presence of sin and the power of sin
- What a wonderful day that will be! Don't you have trouble with sin? Isn't it a frustrating thing to have the presence of sin? As I say, we have been delivered from the power of sin if we will avail ourselves of God's strength, but there is always that presence of sin there. But there is the day coming when we will be able to praise God just like the Israelites did in this chapter
- Notice the contrast to Israel before their deliverance

- Exodus 2:23 KJV

23) And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

- What a change the people have experienced to be able to sing like this
- What a similarity between the struggles we face in this life to the rejoicing we will experience in the life to come
- Let's look at the theme of song

- Exodus 15:2 KJV

2) 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.

- Worship includes singing unto the Lord
- Notice that they were not just singing about the Lord, they were singing TO the Lord
- The theme of the song is very simple...
- I will exalt Him
- Not how I feel about Him or what I have done for Him, but, "I will exalt Him"
- The word *Lord* occurs twelve times in the eighteen verses that contain the song
- Verse 1 is an introduction, and verse 20 and following are a report of some things that they did after the song, but from verses 2-19, we have twelve times where the Lord's name is mentioned
- In addition to that, we find pronouns like He and Him and Thou and Thee thirty-three other times, so this hymn is all about God
- Worship should always be about God. The theme of this song was the Lord entirely, and nothing but the Lord
- The song specifies several works and attributes of God, so we want to think about these attributes and works of God that are specified in this song
- First, as we have mentioned already, the Lord's salvation, in verse 2
- *Salvation* is a summary term for everything that this verse says about God. Notice: "He is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation; my father's God..." All of these things are wrapped up in the concept of salvation

- Salvation is not just some isolated, theological term that involves the fact that God redeemed humanity, but salvation speaks of a personal relationship to God
- That is the best thing about this transformation of Moses
- He goes through all that he has experienced over the past 80 years to get to the point where he can stand there and sing, "*The Lord is my strength and song*"
- To know the God of the universe as your strength and song is only possible because of salvation
- Salvation is the way that we come to know God in a personal way
- Salvation makes it possible for God to be our strength and our song, the object of our praise and the object of our love
- All of that is possible because He is our salvation
- This song is the first time in the Bible that the word *salvation* is used personally
- Here is the first time in the Bible where someone speaks about *my salvation*
- I am afraid that we don't worship and thank God enough for our salvation
- We pray and we mention it sometimes in passing, but how often do we specifically think about how wonderful it is to be saved from the power of sin and to really thank God for that salvation?
- This verse also has a second theme...
- Notice the word *habitation* there
- The word *habitation* is a translation of the Hebrew word *navah*, and this word means "to be at home"
- Do you see what they are praising God for?
- The God of creation has made it possible for us to be at home in His presence
- You know what it means to be at home, don't you? You may travel somewhere or you may visit a friend or you may stay in a hotel. That hotel may be very nice. It may be nicer than your own home. Your friend's home may be nicer than your own home, but no matter how nice that place may be or no matter how welcome that hostess make you feel, it is not the same as being at home, is it?
- What the people of Israel meant when they said: "I will prepare Him a habitation." was "I will let God be at home in my heart."

- Let me ask you, is God at home in your heart, in your life?
- Home, among all the other descriptions that we could give, is the place where we can relax and be ourselves. It is the place where we have it as we think it ought to be. No one else may think that's the way it ought to be, but it is the way that we want it to be, and it is the place where we can relax and be comfortable
- Is God able to relax and be comfortable and feel at home in your heart?
- After Moses and the Israelites saw God's salvation, they said, "I am going to make God a home in my heart."
- As you reflect on your salvation, is that your response? God has done so much for me. He has delivered me from the power of sin, and someday He will deliver me from the very presence of sin, and I want to worship God, making it possible for Him to be at home and comfortable in my heart and life.
- Some of our lives contain things and allow things with which I am afraid God would be very uncomfortable
- Allow the appreciation of your salvation to motivate you to change that
- In verses 3-7 the song talks about God's character, and it's surprising what it says
- Exodus 15:3 KJV
 - 3) The LORD *is* a man of war: the LORD *is* his name.
- This is surprising to most people today because it is a common thing and a popular thing to talk about a God of love and to excuse a great deal of sin in our lives by saying, "Surely a God of love would never punish me. Oh, I know that this is something that I should not be engaged in, but, after all, God is a God of love and He is not going to judge too harshly if I'm not obedient to His Word."
- God is a God of love, but God is also a God of wrath
- God would not be just and holy and righteous if He did not deal properly in judgment with sin and rebellion
- In fact, there would be no need for salvation if God was not a God of wrath
- You see, God's love is only properly understood in the context of God's wrath
- The next section, verses 8-12, talk about God's strength
- All of these things have to do with the ease with which God overcame His enemies
- And then we see God's mercy in Verse 13

- Exodus 15:13 KJV

13) Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people *which* thou hast redeemed:
thou hast guided *them* in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

- Aren't you thankful that though God is a God of wrath and God is a God of judgment, He is also a God of mercy?
- Every passage of Scripture that deals with the wrath of God and the judgment of God, always includes somewhere in that passage a reference to the mercy of God and the love of God
- Isn't it a wonderful thing that God's wrath is superseded by His mercy and by His love?
- Then in verses 14-18 we see a final aspect of God: His glory
- God is a God of strength, God is a God of wrath and indignation against sin, but He is also a God of love who has acted in mercy and love toward us, so certainly God is due glory

- Exodus 15:18 KJV

18) The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

- Men throughout the ages are going to continue to exalt the Lord !