Notes on Exodus 15:1-21

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*Exodus 1:1: 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.*

After the deliverance, they sang a song. Why did they sing?

Because God triumphed gloriously over their enemy. The sea took care of them.

* They did not sing while in Egypt. Egypt represents sin, bondage and the world.
* When I was in Egypt (spiritual Egypt or in other words, trapped in the bondage of sin), I sang a different song as well.
* They did not sing like this until after they were saved; after they were baptized, after they left their past behind.
* With our salvation and freedom from the past we can also sing unto the Lord a new song (Psalm 96).

*Exodus 1:2: The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father’s God, and I will exalt him.*

He is my strength and song. God is who they are singing about.

* The focus of the song is the Lord.
* I will prepare Him a place to dwell. There is clear application for us today. After such a great salvation he has provided us through Christ, we too must prepare a dwelling place for His Spirit within us. Remember the song…”Lord Prepare me to be a sanctuary…”
* The song is about his relationship with God. When I think about the goodness of the Lord and all that He has done for me….I can sing a new song and the relationship I have with Him.

*Exodus 1:3: The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.*

We can sing about His characteristics. He can battle. We can sing unto God based upon what He has already done for us.

*Exodus 1:4-7: Pharaoh’s chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sent forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.*

Sing about how God dealt with and defeated the enemy. We too can sing about how He defeated our problem. When I look back over what He has done for me and the new hope I have, I can sing about that too! When you have a testimony, a new song should be easy to sing His praises and brag about how good God has been to you.

*Exodus 1:8-12: And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as a heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea. 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. Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful is praises, doing wonders? Thou stretched out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.*

They sing about how the Lord delivered them. They replay what happened, how the enemy wanted to destroy but God stepped in to overthrow them instead.

* If you don’t know what to sing about, just sing about what you know He has done for you. That is something to praise about if He has delivered you.

*Exodus 1:13-15: Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestine. 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.*

They sing about His great mercy, how he redeemed them and claimed them and was leading them by His strength to His holy dwelling place. The objective was to bring them nearer to Him.

They sing about the testimony others will hear about these events and how they were delivered and feared God. They won’t be able to move against God’s people when they hear about this.

They sing of God’s purpose and plan for them… to have them pass over. He has purchased them and paid for them. He claimed them. This is very important to know that despite circumstances, they overcame their challenges and God paid for them. Wonder how much He paid for them? They must be precious so he will not just leave them out there. He wants to bring them in. Don’t be fearful that He will just leave you hanging out there. Jesus Christ paid a high price to redeem us so we are valuable in His sight. Truly, you must know that God cares for us.

*Exodus 1:17: 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.*

God has the same idea and plans for us as He does for the Israelites -- to bring them in and plant or have them stay close to where He dwells. God’s plan is to bring them all the way into His best. The plan is to bring them closer to Him.

* Same plan for them is the same plan for us.
* They sing about that; we should sing about what God wants and intends to do for us.
* I can sing because I know the plans He has for me.

*Exodus 1:18-21: The LORD shall reign for ever and ever. 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. 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. 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.*

The Lord shall reign forever and ever. How do we know? We know because of the example he provided by his defeat of Pharaoh described again in verse 19.

God will reign as evidenced by how He defeated the enemy with ease while delivering His people. He made a way that was easier for them than the enemy. What took the enemy out was a way of escape for God’s people.

Did you catch that? What the enemy thought would take them out, turns out to be their way of escape and defeat of the enemy. Look at the Book of Esther and you will see the same story played out. Often our problems and tests in life are designed to bring God glory when He demonstrates His power on our behalf.

Miriam and the women danced. She started the dance and the others followed. They repeat the first verse again….”sing ye to the Lord”.

* Moses sang first. Then Miriam….you see, praise and worship is contagious.
* I want to catch the spirit of praise and worship that they had after this great testimony and victory. Think about what God has done for you and you will be able to praise and worship too.

Other Observations:

* God is the focus of the Israelites and who they sing about.
* Can you sing a new song?
  + Has He brought you out? Has he done anything for you, i.e. redeemed, saved, or purchased you?
  + Redeem = kinsman redeemer, avenge, redeem by payment. To purchase or buy back. To gain or regain possession in exchange for payment. Retrieve, recover, get back, and buy back. To exchange.
  + You can sing if you know who He is and how He has saved us from sin and death. We had a death sentence, now He gives us new life…when we accept His sacrifice.
  + The focus of the enemy in the song is “I will or my”. The focus is on self.
    - The enemy’s focus is on his wants, his strength, and the destruction of what God wants to deliver.
    - Here is a life application – when your focus is on just you….there is a good chance you will miss the move of God for your life.
    - The enemy believes his fight is against us; when his fight is actually against God and His plan. Don’t mess up and find yourself on the wrong side of the song.
  + The first verse starts with songs to the Lord and ends the same way. Who are we singing for?
  + Faith is tied to the song (Psalm 106:11-12).
  + Revelation 15 states people will sing again just as they sing today. Praise and worship I part of the final plan so I’m practicing it now.
  + Note the power of the song. What will a good song make you do?

A wilderness is between them and the promise… take a good praise song with you along the way. Singing songs have a variety of health benefits:

* Memory – you form and recall memories due to the release of dopamine.
* Mood is boosted due to feel good neurochemicals.
* Work performance is improved.
* Blood pressure rises or falls depending on speed and type of music.
* Exercise ability – able to push harder and longer in your workout.
* Music can cheer you up, but you have to want to be happy for it to work.
* Music can reduce chronic pain.
* Music can enhance some brain functions.

You might wanna start to sing. You know what music did for you when you were in the world…..wonder what it could make you do for God and the Kingdom. I can take a verse from Earth, Wind & Fire….”when you feel down and out, sing a song”.

Note: In my spiritual growth as a teacher and minister, I had the privilege of being ordained and mentored by a great teacher named Pastor James Turner. Here are some of his observations from notes I collected from studying the Bible with him. He was a master of finding application for us today. Work the word!

Pastor T Observations:

* Praise and worship is a vital part of the Hebrew story and sojourn.
* So too, praise and worship has to be a vital part of our journey as well.
* If you have been set free, why wait? You have ample reason to praise and worship.
* Israel discovered they had something to praise God about.
* They did not wait until they reached their final destination in order to praise.
  + Why wait when we already have reason to praise? We may have not reached the promised land, but we are out of Egypt and in a promised place
* Look back. You will find ample reason to praise. Before, all they wanted to do was just survive. Now, they have a dream and destiny.
* Chapter 15 begins with praise and ends with a miracle. If you want your challenges to end in a miracle, praise Him now. Standing in between your breakthrough and the Promise Land is a good halleluiah.
* Israel started praising after Moses started them off. Whatever it is you want others to do, you do it first.
* The reason why some people can’t praise is because they may still be in Egypt; still in bondage.
* There is a level of praise and worship that we will never experience until we get some things behind us.
  + What do you need to put behind you so you can praise? Divorce, death, breakup, illness, hurt, job loss, church folk, etc.?
* Praise and worship sees God clearly in all three tenses.
  + Past – don’t miss what He did for you before your recent breakthrough.
  + Present – don’t miss what He is about to do.
  + Future – know what He is going to do in the end.
  + God is always at work!