EXPOSITION OF EXODUS

Message #27

Exodus 15:1-18

Now it is very clear from Exodus 14 and 15 that we get back-to-back accounts of the details of the Red Sea deliverance. This is a critical moment in Israel’s history and it is emphasized in both of these chapters. **What is interesting about Exodus 15 is that we get to see what was going on in the mind of Moses and Israel in view of what they just saw God do.**

One of the great things that certainly should happen to one who has been delivered by God is that they have a heart’s desire to praise God, to thank God, to worship God and reflect on what they have seen God do.

There is no record of Israel ever having any corporate praise service of worship while she was enslaved in Egypt. There is no record of Israel praising God and worshipping God when she was moving out of Egypt. There was no record of Israel praising God and worshipping God when she was camped by the Red Sea. But when she was finally delivered, that changed. She burst out into a praise of God the likes of which the nation had never experienced.

Isn’t this the way it is with us. Prior to us believing on Jesus Christ, we went through some religious motions but when that Holy Spirit took up residency in us, we were drawn to worship God. Personally speaking, God was prompting me to go to church to worship Him and learn His Word. What we see here is this:

**WHEN GOD GAVE ISRAEL THIS GREAT VICTORY, MOSES LED THE SONS OF ISRAEL TO SING A SONG OF PRAISE TO THE GREATNESS OF GOD THAT REMEMBERED WHAT GOD HAD JUST DONE FOR ISRAEL AND REMINDED HER OF WHAT GOD WOULD DO.**

This praise song breaks down into four main sections. The way we may determine a section is by the repetition of certain words that occur at the end of each section:

**Section #1** - God is praised for destroying the Egyptian army in the sea. 15:1-6
The section ends with the repetition of “thy right hand” (v. 6).

**Section #2** - God is praised for the majestic way He destroyed the Egyptian army. 15:7-11
The section ends with the repetition of “who is like thee” (v. 11).

**Section #3** - God is praised for the worldwide testimony that God is for Israel. 15:12-16
The section ends with the repetition of “until thy people pass over” (v. 16).

**Section #4** - God is praised for what He will ultimately do for Israel. 15:17-18
SECTION #1 – God is praised for destroying the Egyptian army in the sea. 15:1-6

As verse 1 states, Moses was prompted to sing this song to “highly exalt” God. In this first section there are six facts brought out:

(Fact #1) - God is highly exalted because He destroyed the enemy horses and riders in the sea. 15:1

There were Egyptian chariots and there were Egyptian horses and there were Egyptian military men chasing the Israelites and God destroyed them all. In one moment He brought that sea down on them.

(Fact #2) - God is highly exalted because He is Personal strength and salvation. 15:2

God proved Himself to be Israel’s strength, Israel’s salvation and Israel’s Personal God. Israel could not save herself anymore than we can save ourselves. After we are saved, our strength is not found in us; it is found in the Lord.

(Fact #3) - God is highly exalted because He is a warrior. 15:3a

Here is a “Lord is” statement that some people do not like. Many people want a passive-love God, not an active-warring God. God is a warrior and people need to live in fear of this fact. If God decides to go on the offensive against someone or some nation, they are doomed. God had many unconventional weapons available for Him to use.

(Fact #4) - God is highly exalted because of His name. 15:3b

No one else named “I AM,” which, as we have discussed, means He is the self-existing, Sovereign God who can do whatever He wants and has entered into a special covenantal relationship with Israel.

(Fact #5) - God is highly exalted because He destroyed Pharaoh’s military in the sea. 15:4-5

God drowned Pharaoh, his army, his chariots and his choice officers in the sea. God caused the deep waters to cover them and they went to the bottom like a stone.

(Fact #6) - God is highly exalted because God’s right hand is majestic and destructive. 15:6

The right hand of God has all power in it. He can save His people and shatter His enemies.

SECTION #2 – God is praised for His sovereign, majestic control over everything and everyone. 15:7-11

Now verse 7 speaks of the greatness and excellence of God. Five realities are revealed:
(Reality #1) - God’s greatness and excellence **overthrows** enemies who rise up against Him.  
15:7a

Not only does God overthrow the Egyptians, but those who rise up against Him. Specifically, this has to do with the fact that God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel.

(Reality #2) - God’s greatness and excellence causes God’s burning anger to **destroy** His enemies.  
15:7b

The concept of God burning enemies in fire is one clearly seen here in the book of Exodus. God actually drowned them in water, but that is only the beginning. From the moment they drowned they were burning.

(Reality #3) - God’s greatness and excellence caused the **waters** to pile up.  
15:8

God used His wind to pile up waters to create a highway that would save His people and destroy His enemies. The wind and the water did exactly what God caused it to do.

(Reality #4) - God’s greatness and excellence caused the enemy to pursue His people so He could **destroy** them.  
15:9-10

This is fascinating because the enemy had a false sense of security. God caused these people to be drawn to destruction. Don’t miss that point in verse 9. He drew them into the sea and then in verse 10 He destroyed them.

Do not ever make the mistake about downplaying the sovereign election of God. God can turn minds any way He wants. He can turn a mind to be saved and He can turn a mind to be damned. People on their way to condemnation have a false sense of security to them that is not real.

(Reality #5) - God’s greatness and majesty is unlike anything else in **existence**.  
15:11

It was about this point when Moses is thinking “who is a God like this?” There is no God like this. This God is far above and beyond all things. He is majestic in His holiness and He is awesome in His praise, working great wonders. There is no one like God.

SECTION #3 - God is praised for the worldwide **testimony** that He establishes for Himself and for His people.  
15:12-16

People all over the world had heard about those plagues and ultimately about what happened at the Red Sea.
(Message #1) - Nations heard what God did with His _right_ hand. 15:12

He stretched out His right hand and the earth swallowed up the people. He shattered Egypt, who was Israel’s enemy (15:6). Nations would be very wise to think seriously about this point.

(Message #2) - Nations heard of God’s _redemption_ in His lovingkindness and mercy. 15:13a

God led His people whom He redeemed. God’s grace and mercy is on Israel. This Exodus proves that. You better think twice about being an enemy of God’s redeemed.

(Message #3) - Nations heard what He did in His _strength_. 15:13b

God guided His people to His Holy Habitation. Now do not miss this—the land that God is ultimately going to give to Israel is called a “holy habitation.” That Mideast land that nations think belongs to them belongs to God and one day it will belong to Israel; every inch of it.

(Message #4) - Nations heard about His deliverance of _Israel_. 15:14-16

God spread a reputation that you do not tamper with My people Israel or you will be destroyed. Because of what God did at the Red Sea, there were four national reactions:

**Reaction #1** - _Anguish_ gripped the Philistines. 15:14b - This is the area of the Gaza Strip.

**Reaction #2** - _Dismay_ hit the Edomites. 15:15a - This is the area known today as modern Jordan.

**Reaction #3** - _Trembling_ hit the Moabites. 15:15b - This is the area known today also as modern Jordan.

**Reaction #4** - _Terror_ and _dread_ melted the Canaanites. 15:15c

This refers to all people in the totality of all the Promised Land.

God’s greatness and God’s dread fell upon all of these people. So those people who are mostly Arab who live today in the Promised Land would be very wise to think back about what happened at the Exodus.

During the Tribulation, God is going to lure all the nations to come up against Israel and He will destroy them all. They won’t know what hit them.

SECTION #4 – God is praised because He will bring His people to their _inheritance_. 15:17-18

There will come a day when Israel will be where she is supposed to be—in her land. She will be in her sanctuary and the Lord will reign over them forever.
This deliverance at the Red Sea absolutely guarantees that one day Israel will be in her land. There will be a sanctuary and God will reign forever and ever.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

1) God is a warrior. Warriors save and warriors destroy.

2) Israel is God’s special nation. She has a unique relationship with God and wise are the nations who recognize this fact.

3) People on their way to burning hell delusionally think they are on safe ground until the moment of their destruction.

4) The heart of one who is right with God is a heart that desires to praise and worship God for His great salvation.