

Today's Sermon

Sing to the Glorious Victorious Warrior-Lord! (Exodus 15)

I remember when I became a father by adoption in Congo

- there were challenges I couldn't see how to get past,
- but God opened up a path mightily in ways I still can't explain
- (I wrote a blog at the time about our Red-Sea-Dividing All-Providing-God¹).

I remember our first term on the mission field our friend's young daughter was bit by a cobra

- she nearly died as they tried to get to the hospital in time with terrible traffic.
- The father wrote the cars seemed to miraculously move out of the way for them like the Red Sea to get the antidote and his infant's life was saved

When our Father God does things like that, we need to praise and exalt Him

God has a way that He makes a way as only He can to His glory.

- He has a deliverance pattern in this song.
- Physically and spiritually this is how He works salvation in history and in our stories.

What the Israelites sang I grew up hearing in the islands of the Philippines as a missionary kid: 'I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously, the horse and rider thrown into the sea (splish, splash)...the Lord is God, I will praise Him, my father's God and I will exalt Him.'

Look at Exodus 15:1: *Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³ The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. ⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. ⁵ The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. ⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. ⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. ⁸ 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. ⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' ¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹ "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

This is the first song recorded in the Bible.

- The first line is echoed in v. 21 by the women and
- many of its lines are echoed in psalms and prophets and even in our closing song today.

It's been said that this song 'from Exodus has influenced history, theology, music, and poetry, both ancient and modern...the theological base of the whole of the Book of Exodus...ancient rabbis rated the event at the sea [some up to 25] times greater than the miracle of the plagues.'²

Ex 14 is the story of God's great salvation, Ex 15 is the song of God's great salvation

In ch 14 Moses said be silent and see your salvation, now they see it and can't be silent.

- In v. 1 'I **will** sing' can also be translated 'I **must** sing.'³

The right response to the truths we've been learning in Exodus is in 15:1 "*I will sing to the LORD,*'

- and it's for who He is and what He's done.

Outline: I will sing to the Lord for ...

1. A glorious deliverance – what He's done

2. A victorious warrior – who He is

Main point: God's people must sing for who God is and what He's done

In one of his last sermons, James Boice said music is "a gift from God that allows us to express our deepest heart responses to God and his truth in meaningful and memorable ways. It is a case of our hearts joining with our minds to say, 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' to the truths we are embracing."⁴

God's people must sing for who God is and what He's done

1st truth of God embraced by hearts so we sing: A glorious deliverance – what He's done

v. 1 says they '*sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously...*

²¹ *And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously...*

[bookends, theme, middle:]

¹¹ *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds*

...

That's the central verse and point, and the song begins and ends on the note of glorious triumph.

- And middle of v. 6 '*O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand...*'
 - o --what He's done, His deliverance from Pharaoh's hand and power.
 - o It's for His glory, greatness, majesty.

⁷ *In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.* That word is another reminder of the slavery they were delivered from.

- Pharaoh in his fury told Israel to make bricks without straw, they had to gather stubble.
- But Egypt is now consumed like stubble.

God is crushing them like 2 tsunamis crashing together on them

Archaeology has found an ancient Egyptian inscription warning how Pharaoh's enemies would die, "there is no tomb for a rebel against his majesty, and his corpse is cast into the water."

- That was a threat for how Pharaoh's enemies should die,
 - o but Pharaoh's whole army dies like that!⁵

The Egyptians prized burial in the land of Egypt and their tombs, but they all die at sea instead.

The Egyptian army was locked on to chasing Israel but now they're all in Davey Jones' Locker.

Ironically and comically Pharaoh is again like Wile E. Coyote, destroying himself in all he tries

They thought they'd overtake and kill the slaves,

- but they get overtaken and killed by waves.

God sent plagues on Egypt that covered the land,⁶

- now in v. 10 '*the sea covered them,*' same verb.

And just like the plagues overtook man and beast, both horse and rider God overthrows here.

- Egypt had cast the Jewish males in the river,
 - o now God casts the Egyptian males in the Red Sea.

It's a warning to hard-hearted sinners, don't cover your sin, you will go down, too

v. 4: *Pharaoh's chariots and his host he **cast into** the sea, and his chosen officers were **sunk in** the Red Sea.* ⁵ *The floods covered them; they went down **into the depths like a stone.***

- Pharaoh's heart was hard as stone, and so his army sank like stone.
- For those who hurt God's children, it's better for them to have a large stone hung around their neck and they be cast into the depths of the sea so they drown.⁷

That's not just OT, Jesus talked about that if you make children stumble in sin

Woe to any who are oppressive or abusive or who cause sin, God will judge if you don't repent.

End of v. 10 '*...they sank like lead in the mighty waters.*'

- That's how God delivers from enemies, including sin.
- God says in Micah 7: "*As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles.*" *Nations will see...* [and the prophet says] *Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity... You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea*' (v. 15-19 NASB).

That's the good news if we don't cover sin but confess it and come clean to God and others, there is pardon.

- That's the greatest miracle God shows us who ask forgiveness – using the same language, and Ex 15:11 asks the same question "*Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?*"

The answer is no one and there's no natural explanation for it. There's a story of a liberal pastor preaching on Ex 15 'in an old, Bible-believing, African-American church...' "Praise the Lord," someone shouted. "Takin' all them children through the deep waters. What a mighty miracle!" ...[the liberal replied] "It was not a miracle. They

were in marsh-land, the tide was ebbing, and the children of Israel picked their way across in six inches of water.” “Praise the Lord!” the man shouted again. “Drownin’ all them Egyptians in six inches of water. What a mighty miracle!”⁸

You can’t explain away or get away from the Bible’s miracles or its Almighty Judge
The believing heart wants to sing and shout out to the miracle-working God who does wonders and is awesome in glorious deeds. This isn’t just for back then, all believers are to say v. 2: ‘*The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation...*’ [yeshua].

- This is for everyone in Ps 118: *The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation... You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You*’ (v. 14, 28 NKJV).
- Ps 118 was sung by Jews every Passover into NT times, it was the Hosanna psalm,
- and was likely the hymn Jesus and His disciples sang before they left the upper room. It’s about the Messiah who became the chief cornerstone and ‘*blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*’

Jesus came in that name and brought our glorious deliverance from sin that weekend
Isa 12 talks about Jesus/Yeshua to come, and it quotes Ex 15:1 with this application: ‘*I will trust and **not be afraid**; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation [Yeshua]...his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.*’

- So this is language applied to the Messiah Yeshua (Hebrew for Jesus) even in the OT.
 - o Don’t be afraid, trust Jesus as your strength.
- Your enemy is sin and it’s heavy,
 - o but when you repent Jesus casts it into the depths of the sea, never to rise again.
- And as Corrie ten Boom said ‘no fishing allowed’ with your past sins by you or others.
- PTL Jesus, don’t drudge sin back up mentally or verbally.

If you need help being delivered from ongoing effects of sin, Jesus can help and His church

This passage also shows us how serious God takes sin and we need to, because sin wars against our soul. That takes us from **#1 a glorious deliverance, to #2 a victorious warrior (who He is)**

⁹ *The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’* But the end of v. 6 says the God’s hand destroyed them, shattering the enemy. v. 3 *The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name* [LSB ‘Yahweh is a warrior’].

285x in the Bible He’s called ‘the Lord of armies/hosts’ (His title as warrior)

Yes, God is a God of love, v. 13 ‘*You have led in your steadfast love...*’

- But first He’s a holy warrior in the first 12 verses.
- v. 3 says He’s a man of war, it’s His very name, in other words His nature.

It's good news that God can deal with evil and will.

- He doesn't just love and try, He fights and is victorious.
- He's the sovereign conqueror, God of angel armies, and invincible warrior-King
Ps 24 calls Him 'the LORD mighty in battle...the LORD Almighty' (NIV)

Some of you are facing serious battles, some of your family may seem like enemies, there are major health battles among us, there's spiritual warfare or situations that you dread or fear.

- The Lord is a warrior who will be the Victor.
- Moses said later: *'Do not be in dread or afraid...your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and...you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went...'* Deut. 1:28-30

Israel could look back and see footprints in the sand, and the Lord had carried them all the way.

- He's a victorious warrior who not only defeats the enemy,
- He carries us home, no one left behind.

We have an enemy pursuing us, wanting to destroy us,

- sin's desire is to overtake us, the world, the flesh, and the devil are great,
- but greater is He who is in us that He who is in the world!

We don't have to live in defeat, in Christ we're more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

1 Cor 15:57 'thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'

Young people, if you get this, this will make all the difference like that teenager facing the giant!

- My kids when they were little loved acting out David and Goliath
- (of course I was the bad guy just like I always played the big bad wolf).
- I acted like the Philistine champion who was over 9 feet tall, warning I'll feed you to the birds of the air.
- One of my little munchkins would say *'You come against me with sword and spear...but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's...'* (1 Sam 17 NIV).
- And the little one would try to nail me in the head with a plastic ball that sometimes hurt and I would groan and fall and they'd take a toy sword and try to cut off my head.

Little David said God would deliver him so all the world would know there is a God in Israel

The point isn't 'dare to be a David,'

- it's those who dare to defy the living God will be living for long.

1 Sam 16 says David was 'a man of war,' in Hebrew *ish-malachma* (16:18)

- exact same phrase in Ex 15:3 of the Lord 'a man of war.'

That language is later used of the Son of David, the coming Son of God or Messiah in Isa 42:13: *'The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war [same phrase as Exodus]...he shows himself mighty against his foes.'*

- But this warrior is also tender to His people who are bruised reeds or who are faint in discouragement, a servant-warrior (v. 1-4).

In the prophets the coming Messiah conquers enemies but cares gently for His people

In Ex 15:6 God's right hand is glorious in power and victorious over enemies that He shatters.

David will apply that to the coming Messiah/Christ in Ps 110: *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool...[sit at right hand=seat of victory, enemies underfoot] ... Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power...The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings...'*

- That's the Lord talking to the Lord, God talking to God, God the Father to God the Son.
- The NT quotes that over 20x as talking about Jesus who will come at the right hand of glory and power

He rose victorious from the grave and the point of Revelation is Jesus wins to the end

That's later in the Bible, but earlier Moses wrote in Gen 3:15 about this battle,

- that there would be a 'man of war' who God calls a 'seed of woman'
- who'll one day crush the head of the serpent.
- At the Red Sea the Lord crushed Pharaoh (with his serpent crown on his head).
- It's a preview of coming attractions when the Lord as a man of war ultimately finally will crush Satan and his hosts

And it may be some at the sea got to later see this Lord in the form of a man

Turn to Joshua 5 and remember Joshua was at the Red Sea and he sang '*the LORD is a man of war.*'

40 years later I think Joshua gets to see what he earlier could only sing before they enter Canaan.

Joshua was assistant to Moses. Look at Joshua 5:13: *When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"* ¹⁴ *And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come."* *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"* ¹⁵ *And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

Like God to Moses at the burning bush, but this is a 'man' called 'Lord' who is worshipped

When believers worship angels, angels say '*no, worship God,*'

- but this being accepts worship just like God
- and tells Joshua to be even more worshipful, take off your sandals.
- He comes from the LORD, but He's called Lord (Adonai, there's 1 God, but 3 persons, this is the 2nd person).
- In ch 6 this Lord says 'I've given Jericho into your hands.'
- I say Jesus fought the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down.
- Heb 2:10 calls Jesus '*the captain of our salvation*' (NKJV).

Turn to Rev 15 and as you do I'll turn in history to the year 1792. There were about a thousand settlers of African descent who traveled across the ocean to a new land (former American slaves and freemen from other places). They settled in a new land purchased as a Province of Freedom

They came ashore singing 'Awake and sing the song, of Moses and the Lamb!
Wake every heart and every tongue, To praise the Saviour's Name....
Sing on your heavenly way! Ye ransomed sinners, sing!
Sing on, rejoicing every day, In Christ, the eternal King!⁹

That's a great picture of redeemed former captives praising God, not just in Ex 15 but in Rev 15

² *And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered...* [sounds like when God made the sea like glass, and fire kept back His enemies till He conquered them after they passed] ³ *And they **sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb**, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"* ⁴ *Who will not fear, O Lord, and **glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you...***

Rev 15 sounds like Ex 15, song of Moses about God glorious in holiness, and awesome deeds

Turn to Rev 19 where we see another horse and rider, and a man of war on it: 19:11 'Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and **makes war.**' The Lord Jesus is a warrior, with eyes of fire, and blood splattered on His robes in v. 13. ¹⁴ *And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.* ¹⁵ *From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.'* Not just the OT God, the NT Son of God, too.

Matt Papa has a song that puts it all together: 'Death is close, Closing in
Now surrounded by our foes We were born as slaves to them...

Hope departs ... but ... See the waters part...

See the Lamb On His cross Once exalted now despised, It is finished, then
He dies...

did the darkness win? But this is not the end, no

Feel the shaking ground, See the stone is rolling back now...

He judges and makes war, the reign of Messiah, His eyes flames of fire, strange
His attire ...

Repent... [or] you'll meet Him as a holy righteous slaughterer

Somebody call the coroner, the Lord is a warrior¹⁰

Ch 18 talked about God's enemy being thrown down like a stone into the sea, never to be seen again (v. 21)

- and in ch 20 final judgment is death and Hades thrown in the lake of fire, never to rise.
- Who will not fear this holy Lord and glorify Him?
 - o Will you? Will you come and worship? If not, the Man of War comes.
- The NT says God appointed this man who'll judge the world in righteousness,
- but it also says there is a mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.¹¹
- He saves those who recognize they're sinners, repent and rely on who Christ is, what He's done

He died for sin, then triumphed over the grave and rose victorious

How should believers respond? I will sing unto the Lord Jesus for He has triumphed gloriously

- my sin and shame He cast into the sea!
- Jesus is my strength and my song and He has become my salvation
- Jesus is God, I will praise Him, He is my God and I will exalt Him!
- Jesus is a warrior and a Savior, the Lord is His name, His hand is glorious and victorious!

I will sing...His triumphant power I'll tell How the victory He giveth, over sin and death and hell¹²

Closing song: 'I will sing...clothed in majesty, Lord of history...the risen one, heaven's champion'¹³

God's people must sing for who He is and what He's done. Rev 19:5 is a command from God's throne: *'Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.'*⁶ *Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."*⁷ *Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory...* Amen? Let's pray and then let's obey and sing to our Lord who triumphed gloriously.

¹ <https://lifeatthelaytons.blogspot.com/2011/10/our-mountain-moving-miracle-working-red.html>

² Eugene Carpenter, *Exodus 1-18* (Lexham Academic, 2016), 531-33.

³ Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 2:348.

⁴ Philip Graham Ryken, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory* (Crossway Books, 2005), 403-404.

⁵ J. B. Pritchard, ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. (Princeton University Press, 1969), p. 431.

⁶ Exodus 8:6, 10:5, 10:15.

⁷ Mark 9:42, Matthew 18:6.

⁸ Ryken, 395-396.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 400-402.

¹⁰ Matt Papa, "The Lord is a Warrior," feat. Shai Linne.

¹¹ Acts 17:30, 1 Timothy 2:5.

¹² Philip Bliss, "I Will Sing of My Redeemer."

¹³ Stuart Townend, "Beautiful Savior."