

Revelation 15: 3 and 4 - “The Song of Moses and the Lamb”; Sermon # 111 in the series – “The True and Faithful Witness”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 23rd, 2013, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

The book of Revelation is a book which gives to us, in an overview, the spiritual history of the Church of Jesus Christ. Those who are standing on the sea of glass mingled with fire, those who have the victory over the beast, those who have the victory over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name; those who have the harps of God, they all sing this song; the song of Moses and of the Lamb. They sing these two songs together as one song because the saints of God are all united as one Church, both Old Testament and New, because of the Person and Work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is He who binds His people together in the bundle of the living; His people of all generations. When they die, they are in heaven together, and they are praising God together forevermore. The song of praise that they sing, here in these verses, is a song extolling God for the Church’s great deliverance from a political and spiritual government that was false and oppressive, cruel and unjust. Their praise, which is found in this song, ought to be your praise dear Christian, even now, because you as one of God’s people are involved in the drama of the ages.

You ought to praise God, in these days, because of all that the Lord Jesus Christ will do for His Church, in the future of this world, leading to the time in which He shall appear a second time. This afternoon I want you to see what you should praise God for, in relation to the Church’s future deliverance from the Antichristian Babylonian captivity. It is this captivity which has prevented the nations from better seeing the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. This captivity is going to one day come to an end.

And so, I want you to see 1st, that you and I should sing of God’s great and marvelous works, both past and future. 2nd – We should sing of God’s just and true ways in all of our deliverances from false religion. And 3rd – We should sing of the glorious future of Christ’s Church in the Millennium.

1st of all – We should sing of God’s great and marvelous works. (verse 3)

“They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!’” The great and marvelous works that they are singing about here, were first of all, the works which God did in delivering Israel from their bondage to Pharaoh in the land of Egypt, which are related for us beginning in Exodus 14, verse 1 and following. Turn over there with me. “Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea.’” “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, they are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.” “Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.” “And they did so.”

Now, I want you to see what great and marvelous works the Lord was about to do here. He was about to deliver the whole nation of Israel from their bondage to Pharaoh, their condition of slavery in Egypt; He saw and considered, and He had determined to do these great and marvelous things to deliver them from their hard bondage. The children of Israel ought to have been praising God for their marvelous deliverance. God’s mighty hand performing wonders had been revealed in the pouring out of His plagues upon Egypt. He had destroyed the prosperity of the whole country of Egypt so that the hard-hearted Pharaoh would let the people go. And so they had gone a 3-day’s journey into the wilderness in order to worship the Lord.

But right when they were on the very edge of God’s doing the most amazing wonders for them, they fell into the unbelieving thought that God had brought them out there to kill them. They ought to have been rejoicing in God and looking to Him in faith, and yet here they are questioning His goodness to them. There is a lesson in this, for us here as well. If we have not praised God for

the wonderful works that He has done for us in bringing us out of our slavery in sin, if we are not a thankful and a praising person each and every day, because of what Christ has already done for us in our salvation, how will we ever build upon that thanksgiving and praise to look expectantly toward God in the day of our calamity? What will we do when it seems as though the Devil will defeat us in all of our attempts to be good witnesses for Christ's kingdom? And how will we ever be able to conceive in our hearts, the great work that He intends to do for His Church in the future among the nations of the world?

Pharaoh here, in these chapters, is a picture of the Devil and his schemes in relation to the Church in the New Testament. Egypt is a picture of the world. The reaction of the children of Israel is a picture of the desires of the flesh in relation to the world and the sin of unbelief in relation to all that God was doing for them. God knew that hard-hearted Pharaoh would say of the children of Israel, "They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in." You can see here that the children of Israel were not praising the Lord for what He was about to do. They were not ready for Pharaoh's next strategy, which was to attempt to bring them back into slavery to himself again. Neither were they ready for what God would do to destroy him.

Verse 5 - "Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, 'Why have we done this that we have let Israel go from serving us?' "So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him." "Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them." "And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness." "So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon." "And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel cried out to the Lord." "Then they said to Moses, 'Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?' "Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?"

"Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' "For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." This, truly, is raw unbelief and ingratitude to God. "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid.'" "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever." You can see here, that God was faithful to do what He had intended to do; His freeing the children of Israel forever by destroying all of their enemies. But they were not ready for this mighty thing that the Lord was going to do.

Listen to verse 14 - "The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace." "And the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me?' "Tell the children of Israel to go forward." "But lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it." "And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them." "So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariot and his horsemen." "Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

"And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them." "So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel." "Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night." Look at how God's mighty purposes are fulfilled in regard to those whom He intends to deliver. In thinking about His own faithful and true people among those were unbelieving; He gives those who believe light, but He gives cloud and darkness to the Egyptians.

And yet, even though all of the children of Israel had light, many of them remained in spiritual darkness because they would not believe in God's great power and His ability to do this great thing

for them, to deliver them from all of their enemies. So it also is sometimes for those who are Christians; they do not think to strengthen their faith by praising and thanking God for His marvelous works. They do not think about how God can get honor by bringing them through difficult situations by means of His marvelous works. They only think of things in very selfish and sinful ways. Let it not be so among us; let us trust in God even when we do not understand what He is leading us into.

During the 1260 days' time period of Church history (which is really years), the New Testament Church at large has been held in a sort of spiritual captivity by Roman Catholicism. Many people have been held in that false system, and in bondage to its false doctrine of salvation by sacramental and ceremonial works. They have been held under the spiritual tyranny and deception of the Popes. You, as a Christian are called by God to do battle with the forces of darkness by your belief in the truth of God's word. The Devil is counting on your being bewildered by the land, the spiritual wilderness closing you in.

As you look at the spiritual horizon, you might be tempted to think that nothing but spiritual darkness and bewilderment lies ahead. Will you not remember to praise the Lord for His mighty works, for His wonderful works to you, even as the spiritual darkness settles in around you? God is a light for you to illumine your darkness. "God is my light and my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid?" "The Lord is the defense of my life, whom shall I dread?" If you do not engage in regular holy praise and thanksgiving, dear Christian, you may fall into the sin of unbelief, as many of these Israelites did. "If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!", says our Lord Jesus in Matthew 6: 23.

But all of this can change, if you will exercise faith and express praise and thanksgiving for God's mighty care over your life. We will continue to look at Exodus 14 and 15 in our second point, so let me state it now:

2nd – We should sing of God's just and true ways in all of our deliverances from false religion.

Verse 3b of our text says, "Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!" "Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?" "For You alone are holy." Exodus 14: 21 says, "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided." "So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left." "And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen."

"Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians." "And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'" "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it." "So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea."

God was just and true to overthrow them for Pharaoh's wicked statement which he gave to Moses and Aaron at their first meeting – "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" "I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." (Exodus 5: 2) Pharaoh's god was material prosperity in his worldly Egypt. He would hold all the Israelites in bondage to raise himself up to wealth and glory. But now because of the Lord's judgments, Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously!" "The horse and its rider thrown into the sea!" "The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God and I will exalt Him."

A very similar thing has happened in New Testament times with Roman Catholicism and its Popes holding people in a false system of worship, theology, and practice. Instead of humbly

holding forth the Word of Christ to the nations, they are holding forth the pomp and glory of an Emperor in the visible church of Jesus Christ. And he is supposed to be seen by all the faithful Christians as His vicar, the Head of the Church on earth. He pronounces what is supposedly the true way of salvation, but it is the merits of Jesus Christ plus the merits earned by those who do good works to promote the glory of the false church.

They promote the glory of the Pope, and they blindly receive his false doctrines and decrees without comparing it with the Bible. They are supposed to worship Mary and the saints by means of graven images. They are supposed to believe in the efficacy of a priest's works to absolve sins and administer the 5 sacraments which cannot be found in the Word of God. They are supposed to believe that the water baptism of infants begins the process of regeneration with which they must cooperate to be eventually saved. We will see in Chapter 16 that the pouring out of the vials, or the bowls of wrath upon this false system, will produce a reaction very similar to what happened when Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and commanded that he let the people go so that they can truly worship the Lord.

The Pope and all his bishops and all his priests will not do that; they cannot let their people go. God knows that they will have to be forced to it by spiritual plagues and judgments. The Lord who is just and true, and who has seen all the evil that has been done to true Christians of many denominational backgrounds, down through the whole of the 1260 years of the Church's Babylonian captivity, will have His angels pour out their vials, and this false system of worship will come to an end. Christ has seen the twisting of truth and will bring it to light. Christ has seen the persecuting and the wearing down of the saints, and the many attempts to slay the true Church's witness.

Christ is the King of the saints, and there is coming a day when He shall be feared and His name glorified. "Who will not fear You, O Lord Jesus Christ, and glorify Your name, For You alone are holy; not the man at Rome who is falsely called, "His holiness". Will you not rejoice, dear Christian people in all denominations, that this will be so? This will be the beginning of a true and just ecumenical movement during the time of the Millennium which will follow the downfall of false Babylon. Greater light will indeed eventually come, and with it a greater unity based upon truth.

Dear Christian, you have reason to sing and rejoice, for the great systems of false religion are going to come to an end, and the true people of God are going to come to know a greater working unity which will be based upon the truth of the Word of God, rightly explained and applied. And this leads me to the 3rd reason that you and I should sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb:

3rd – We should sing because of the glorious future of Christ's Church in the Millennium.

Verse 4 says, "Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?" "For You alone are holy." "For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested." This is not speaking of heaven, but rather of a time period which is coming before Christ returns and brings an end to the age and the world as we know it. It is the time when a judgment will be made by God the Father concerning the kingdom of His Son, that the dominion of the Antichrist shall be taken away. It is spoken of in the book of Daniel in this way: Daniel 7: 26 – "But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever."

"Then the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High." "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." This has yet to happen in this present Church age. Listen also to Psalm 72, verse 5 – "They (that is God saints, His people through Jesus Christ our Lord) shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations." "He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth." "In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more." "He

shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.” Verse 16 – “He shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised.”

“There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.” “His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun.” “And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed.” “Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!” “And blessed be His glorious name forever!” “And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.” “Amen and Amen.” This time is coming, before Christ returns.