

When the Lord Is All We Have, He's All We Need

Exodus 15:1-13

1 Then 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 He has thrown into the sea! 2 The LORD is my strength and 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. 3 The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone. 6 "Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. 7 And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble. 8 And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths 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 be satisfied on 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, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them. 13 You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.

This hymn of praise has four stanzas: God's victory is announced (Ex. 15:1-5), God's weapons are described (vv. 6-10), God's character is extolled (vv. 11-16a), and God's promises are fulfilled (vv. 16b-18). Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Delivered (Exodus 25-20).

Here we have the first song recorded in the Holy Scriptures. And what a song it is. Sad to say that most people when reading the book of Exodus just skip right through this part.

For many people worship is not as exciting as the plagues brought upon Egypt or the other prose. We like action, a good story. But when you begin to teach, then people loose interest. That is why much of our teaching is done through stories. We learned that from Jesus.

But here we have unadulterated worship. We get no knew information. There is no progress across the sands of Sinai. Just this explosive worship. Instantaneous and spontaneous worship.

It is worship that springs from a grateful heart like that of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10); Or like that of Elisabeth when confronted with her Lord (Luke 1:41-45); Or the song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55); or the song of Zachariah at the birth of his son, John (Luke 1:67-79).

In each of these instances, it was not a planned worship. It was worship that just exploded and overflowed from a heart that cannot contain the praise and love it feels for God. These are no dry ordered worship services. But are the result of a life that is built upon and dedicated to God.

When I was growing up I remember, in our living room, there was a fist shaped indent in the living room ceiling. It was from my older brother watching a game of the Illinois State Red Birds. And his team must have won, for after that was when I noticed the fist imprint in the ceiling.

Now I don't do that, not for any sports. And the reason is, I don't have a dog in the fight. You know what I mean. It doesn't make any difference to me who wins or loses. But if people come to worship in that same manner, then they do not have a dog in the fight. They don't really care who wins and who loses. But Moses and the children of Israel were very much concerned because it was about them, their lives.

The people of Israel had struggled for 400 years under the hand of the Egyptians and their army. But today they have seen the Lord work in a most miraculous way.

They do not know it yet, but the Lord is going to daily sustain them for the next 40 years. Every day the manna will come. They will drink of that rock that followed them (1 Cor. 10:4).

What Moses and the people discovered was how to depend upon God for each day's provision.

We pray give us this day, our daily bread. Now that is a stretch for most of us. We are more likely to say, "Soul take thine ease, thou hast much goods laid up for many days." But are we better off? Yes physically, but probably not spiritual.

When we find out that God is all we have, we will realize that God is all we need.

Let us take our time today to look at this marvelous passage.

I. God Gives the Victory v-1-5

A. All real victories are from the Lord.

1. It is not by might or by power but by the Spirit of God.
2. Zec 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.
3. Revelation 15:3 (NKJV) 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! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

B. He only seems to be defeated at times to work a greater work.

1. When Moses first asked that Pharaoh would let the Israelites go, Pharaoh only made their lives harder by demanding them gather their own straw.
2. The people were so upset they wanted to stone Moses.
3. Was God defeated or was He simply using the hardness of Pharaoh's heart to bring about a greater victory.
4. When a baby born blind about 40 b.c. do you suppose that the parents that God was against them.
5. Even the disciples wanted to know, who was the guilty party, the child or his parents.

6. But Jesus told them that it was neither, for God would bring glory to himself through this man. John 9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.
- C. God defeated the gods of Egypt.
 - D. God defeated the army of Pharaoh
- II. God's Weapons v-6-10
- A. God is not limited as man is but can use wind and water to accomplish His plan.
 - B. He even uses the sinful actions of man.
 1. Ps 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.
 - C. He uses the prayers of His people.
 - D. He has chosen often to use the weakness of you and me to accomplish his plan.
- III. God's Character v- 11-16a
- A. V-3 The LORD is a man of war
 1. Isaiah 63:1-7 (NKJV) 1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth." 7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD And the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.
 2. Revelation 19:11 (NKJV) 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
 - B. Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?

- C. Who is like You, glorious in holiness,
- D. Fearful in praises, doing wonders?
- E. You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them.
- F. You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed;
- G. You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.
- H. 14 "The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away. 16 Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.

IV. God's Promises Fulfilled v-16b-18

- A. Exodus 15:16-18 (NKJV) 16 Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.
- B. 17 You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O LORD, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established.
- C. 18 "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

Some people might ask why we would study ancient history, not a favorite subject for many people.

Paul has the answer.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours

by John Newton

How tedious and tasteless the hours
When Jesus I no longer see;
Sweet prospects, sweet birds and sweet flowers,
Have all lost their sweetness to me;
The midsummer sun shines but dim,
The fields strive in vain to look gay.
But when I am happy in Him,
December's as pleasant as May.

His Name yields the richest perfume,
And sweeter than music His voice;
His presence disperses my gloom,
And makes all within me rejoice.
I should, were He always thus nigh,
Have nothing to wish or to fear;
No mortal as happy as I,
My summer would last all the year.

Content with beholding His face,
My all to His pleasure resigned,
No changes of season or place
Would make any change in my mind:
While blessed with a sense of His love,
A palace a toy would appear;
All prisons would palaces prove,
If Jesus would dwell with me there.

Dear Lord, if indeed I am Thine,
If Thou art my sun and my song,
Say, why do I languish and pine?
And why are my winters so long?
O drive these dark clouds from the sky,
Thy soul cheering presence restore;
Or take me to Thee up on high,
Where winter and clouds are no more.