

Exodus 15-16:16

So tonight we'll go ahead here and keep moving in our study of the book of Exodus, and just a quick reminder this evening that last week in our study we were reading about how the Lord had delivered the Israelites and worked in their lives in an incredible way.

We might remember all the way back in chapter 2 as the Israelites were crying out to the Lord we were told that the Lord heard them, that He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that God looked upon the children of Israel and God acknowledged them.

It was then that the Lord raised up Moses calling him while he was taking care of the flocks of his father-in-law and sent him and his brother Aaron to go to the king of Egypt and tell him that he was to let the people of God go!

This king refused to do so which brought about 10 different plagues upon the people of Egypt and when the final plague took place the king called in Moses and Aaron and told them to get out and take their kids and flocks and wives and everything they had.

So Moses and the Israelites left in haste and the Lord began to lead them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. As the Lord did this, he led them to a place that put the Israelites in a position that they were kind of pinned against the Red Sea.

While this was happening the Egyptians were thinking about all that had transpired and they started to realize they had just lost 600,000 working men and the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh and he made the choice to go after the Israelites along with his army.

The Israelites were terrified and Moses called out to the Lord which led to the waters of the Red Sea parting and the Israelites then crossing over on dry land. The Egyptians tried to follow and as they did so the waters came crashing down on them drowning them in the Sea.

Chapter 15 of the book of Exodus is a song that Moses and the Israelites sang and it was really a celebration unto the Lord for all that He had done on their behalf...It is the first song that the Bible records and this song I think may very well be the song that we sing that is mentioned over in the book of Revelation 15:2-4.

So let's go ahead and take a look at this here if you look at verse 1 which says **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!**

Can you imagine the joy that the people of Israel had experienced at this point in their lives? It was probably much like what you and I have experienced as believers in Jesus...the Lord has set us free, we are no longer under the cruel bondage of the enemy...Certainly singing to the Lord and praising His name and giving thanks for His great and glorious triumph is in order.

It's an amazing thing when the Lord brings a trial or a situation to a close. There can be incredible joy and peace when the Lord steps in. This reminds me of 1 Peter 5:10-11 which says ¹⁰ **But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and**

settle you. ¹To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Perhaps we should be reminded that when the Lord works...we should praise!

Look with me at verse 2 which says ²The 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.

Notice here that the Lord God is becoming personal for the Israelites as they sing unto Him declaring He is their strength and song and He has become my salvation...He is my God they said and I will praise Him.

You know sometimes we go through hardship and difficulty because it is only through trials that the Lord can show certain characteristics of who He is to us...How else could we learn about the strength of God unless He had to rescue us or show up on our behalf?

Look at verse 3 which says ³The Lord is a man of war;

The Lord is His name. It's kind of interesting that they sang of God that He is a man of war...When you stop and think about it you realize pretty quickly that it certainly is true. God has been in war against the enemy of our souls from the very moment that Adam and Eve sinned and I don't want us to think that God is struggling in this war...the fact is He can and will win when He chooses to, but certainly God fights for the hearts of every man woman and child throughout history.

God is not willing that anyone perish but instead He works and wars and fights for all of us to come to receive the Lord Jesus in our hearts.

Verses 4-5 kind of lay out the victory of God over the Egyptians when they say **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. One quick note as there are some that try to argue that the waters the Israelites crossed over were not all that deep...**These verses really come against that** for we are told they were covered by the depths of the sea **and they sank to the bottom like a stone.**

How awesome and strange it probably was to be the Israelites and there you are as dry as can be **and you are on the shore of the Red Sea** looking back as the waters came crashing down on the Egyptians.

Perhaps we should remember the day the Lord crushed the enemy of our souls **just like the Israelites are here memorializing** the great work of God on their behalf.

Look at verses 6-7 which say 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.

Here we can see the power of God **and notice that there is no space here for any credit to be taken by the Israelites. It's all about the**

greatness and the power of the Lord and how He has dashed the enemy in pieces.

The song even speaks of the wrath of God being sent forth to consume the Egyptians like stubble. I do think we should remember that one day the wrath of God will come upon this world. God at this time is being patient and He is waiting and hoping that all of humanity will come to repentance but one day His patience will end and His wrath upon this world and those who refuse to believe will come.

We might even take note that the Egyptians had multiple chances to get things right with God before they finally faced the full wrath of God when the firstborn were struck and they died in the Sea. For the Egyptians they could have simply said “The Lord is strong and we had better be obedient to Him” instead they refused and faced judgment.

Verses 8-10 say ⁸And 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.

⁹The 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.’

¹⁰You blew with Your wind,

The sea covered them;

They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

The Lord withheld the waters for a time and then let them go...and the result was the army of Egypt was totally wiped out. Even today the Lord is holding this world together working in hearts but there will come a time that He lets it all go if you listen to 2 Peter 3:10 which says **¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**

So often today I believe the enemy of our souls has it out for us as the enemy did for the Israelites in verse 9 and Satan actually thinks he can pursue and overtake us...Sadly some of the time he does succeed pulling some away from the truth but I'm thankful that the Lord also promises to deliver those of us that cling to Him and live for Him putting Him first every day of our lives.

Look with me at verses 11-13 which say **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.

Obviously, the Lord is all together separate and infinitely more powerful than any god of this world...And I would add that there are no Gods but one...If you tried to compare all the false gods of this world to the One true God I know you would agree there is no comparison.

There is only one God that created the heavens and the earth and all that we see and partake of. The Lord is holy, worthy of being feared as we worship Him, and full of wonders.

The Lord was the one that was responsible for the victory that the Israelites had experienced...it wasn't the clever works of Moses, it wasn't the brute strength of the Israelites or their tenacity...It was the Lord that made all these things happen...We should have the same attitude. Do you think you are personally successful in life because of what you have done? Do you think your victories have anything to do with you? I don't think so, the Lord is the one that works in us and through us as He gives us the victory and the Israelites could see and recognize that as they sung this song.

Notice it says here the Lord did this in mercy and He did this on behalf of those that He redeemed. We might remember it is by grace through faith that you and I are saved.

Look with me at verses 14-19 which say 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.

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.

¹⁸ “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry *land* in the midst of the sea.

Here we are told that the nations would hear of what the Lord had done **and they would find themselves in the fear and dread of the Lord...and I want to just share with you how this came to pass if you listen to what happened in the book of Joshua 2:8-10 which says**

⁸ Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: “I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **The nations heard of God’s great work and they quaked as they did so.**

We also have promise here that the Lord would bring them in and plant them in the mountain of His inheritance and really that means

the Lord has promised to bring His people into a specific land and He would fulfill that promise in the future.

When God says something, He does it. That's why I love following Jesus and building my life on His Word... Because He always keeps it, it's a sure thing, it doesn't lie and as we follow Him the rug is never pulled out from under us.

We also have mention here in verse 18 that the Lord shall reign forever and ever. We should rejoice in that shouldn't we? The Lord one day will rule and reign forevermore.

Now we have a second song here at the tail end of this first one if you look at verses 20-21 which say ²⁰**Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. ²¹ And Miriam answered them:**

**“Sing to the Lord,
For He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider
He has thrown into the sea!”**

I kind of get the idea that the men sang the song of Moses and the women then chimed in with their song as they followed the lead of Miriam. If you remember Miriam was the older sister of Moses, the one that placed her little brother that was in a basket into the waters where the daughter of the king found him.

She is here said to be a prophetess and she also simply says sing to the Lord for His glorious triumph and again just simply states the Lord has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea.

What a glorious time we see in Israel's history as the Lord has done so much for them and really the Israelites are feeling pretty great right now at this time in their history...The Israelites are on the mountain top...but do you know the mountain top experiences of life don't always last forever...For the Israelites it was just three days before something took them right back to despair.

Well, let's see what happens if you look at verses 22-25 which say **So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.**

Verse 22 tells us they went for three days after this took place and then what? They were naturally thirsty, that's a long time to go without water. You can imagine as the people of Israel were on the move they were burning through calories and the water levels in their bodies were being depleted and they came to a place that they found some water but when they drank from it the waters were bitter...that's actually what the word Marah means and it is interesting but if you read the story of Ruth you will see that Naomi when she lost her husband and returned to her home told the people to call her Marah for the Lord had given her bitterness.

I just want you to take note that it was only three days earlier the people had seen a mighty work of God on their behalf. In fact, God

had done numerous things for them and yet at the first sign of difficulty it would seem here that they are ready to give up and rather than asking the Lord for help they instead complain against Moses.

Notice what Moses does though and I think any good leader will do this as he does the only thing he can and cries out to the Lord for help and notice that as he did so the Lord responded by showing him a tree that had been there all along and he was told to cast that tree into the waters and as he did so the waters were made sweet...so again this is supernatural I believe as this took place...Moses could have easily said no to the Lord or he could have said it didn't make sense and yet as he obeyed God worked.

And then looks at the rest of verse 25 through verse 27 which says **There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, ²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."**

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Here we can see the Lord was testing His people and we'll see that again here in just a few minutes in the next chapter but the idea here is that God is giving them commands and telling them they should listen and do whatever it is He has said and IF they were obedient they would find blessing and a lack of disease upon their people.

Sometimes in life the promises of God are conditional and such is the

case in this situation. If the people obeyed they would then be free from disease.

I want to just point out to us this evening that not only were the Israelites to hear the Word of God, but they were also to do the Word of God...the expectation of God was that the people would actually apply the Word to their lives. I like what James 1:22-25 says when it says the following ²² **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** ²³ **For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;** ²⁴ **for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.** ²⁵ **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

It's one thing to hear and another thing entirely to apply it and actually do it as you go through life.

Notice also in verse 27 they came to a new place and camped and when they got there we can see there was an abundance of shade and water...So God first allows no water to be found to bring them to a place of dependance on Him, He then shows them that He will provide for them and then just a short time later they are in a place of abundance.

Sometimes we have to go through the deserts before we will appreciate the abundant streams that surround us.

Let's work on chapter 16 here if we can for a little bit if you look at verses 1-3 which say **16 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the**

congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. ² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

So here they are on the 15th day of the second month and notice once more the people are complaining against Moses.

It's interesting the people are not looking to the Lord that has done so much for them but instead they see the man Moses and come against Him...God has allowed this to happen and yet the blame goes to the man that God is using.

What I want you to see here is that the people actually say that they wish they had died in Egypt and then they start thinking about how their lives used to be remembering that they could eat meat...which probably was a rare occasion and they could partake of bread to the full.

It's an amazing thing but sometimes the enemy of our souls can begin to trick us into thinking that the old way we used to live is somehow something we should miss and even pursue going back to.

It's sad to me that somehow our flesh is able to remember the seemingly good times of life we experienced before we came to Christ without remembering any of the consequences that came with that

lifestyle and how generally miserable we were...Can you imagine actually wanting to go back to being in slavery? And yet people do it all the time returning to the old ways they used to live.

It reminds me of the parable of the sower and the seeds when the seeds were sown among the thorns and the thorns represent the ways of the world and they will eventually go and choke out the seeds that have been sown in a persons life. We need to be careful that we don't let the physical needs of our life cause us to want to go the wrong way...In 1 John 2:16 we are reminded of the following which says ¹⁶**For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.**

Simply said when the Lord rescues us the idea is we never go back to the old ways again. The Israelites were struggling with this as they began to become a little hungry...Hunger will drive you to think some strange things and that's what was happening here in this situation.

So the people complain and Moses does the right thing seeking the Lord and then we have God's response if you look at verses 4-5 which say ⁴**Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."**

So the Lord promised bread from heaven for the people and notice it says here they were to go out and collect a certain amount of this bread each day that the Lord might test them whether they will walk in

the law of God or not...Then on the sixth day of the week they were to go out and gather twice as much as they usually did.

So the Lord is here setting them up for a test to see how they would respond to see if they would do what God said or if they would step outside of the commands God had given them.

You might make note that even though the people are complaining against the Lord and Moses that the Lord does not respond in anger but instead He responds by grace as He provides for them.

Look at verses 6-8 which say ⁶Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, “At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ Also Moses said, “*This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord.*”

Once again Moses tells the people that when the Lord provides and works for them it is so they will know that the Lord has brought them out of the land of Egypt...so God again just reminding the people that I delivered you and I have a plan for you and this provision was to prove that to them.

Then the Lord lets them know that in the morning the Lord is going to respond to the complaints they had made against Him and they would find bread to the full.

I want to point out to you here that the people complained against who? Against Moses...but God took it differently as this took place and says to the people of Israel that they were actually complaining against Him...So the Lord here was standing up for Moses and really took it personally when they came against the man God called.

The same thing happens in the New Testament as Paul is persecuting the church and people are running for their lives and the Lord when He spoke to Paul said to him “Why are you persecuting me”

It's comforting to know that when people come against you personally that actually they are coming against the Lord and the Lord takes special note of that. God will always come to the aid of His people as they simply stand for Him and choose to do what's right.

Look at verses 9-16 which say ⁹Then Moses spoke to Aaron, “Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your complaints.’” ¹⁰Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

¹¹And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹²“I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. ¹⁴And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵So

when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

And Moses said to them, “This *is* the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, *according to the* number of persons; let every man take for *those who are* in his tent.’ ”

You might if you are an underliner in your Bible go back through this chapter and just underline the word complaint or complain because it shows up multiple times and the Lord here speaks to His people and let’s them know that He has heard their complaints and I am a little struck by this for we then see the presence of God appear and then we see the provision of both manna and quail.

Isn’t it amazing how gracious the Lord is? I mean here these people are that God has done so much for and they are really being whiners in the situation and yet God is blessing them. I’m so thankful that He loves me when I don’t deserve it, even when I complain and struggle...I think you and I should endeavor to apply Philippians 2:14 to our lives when it says ¹⁴**Do all things without complaining and disputing,** And then instead of complaining we should instead look to be a people that rejoice as Paul again in Philippians 4:4 says ⁴**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

We need to make sure our thoughts are taken captive and made submissive to Christ. We like the Israelites are blessed in every way.

So the people complain and God blesses them anyway as the quail are brought in and quail will nest together and often times they will do

so when they get tired. It's pretty amazing that God has His hand on all things and He can cause the quail to be in the right place at the right time in order to bless His people.

And then when they got up in the morning this strange flakey substance was on the ground and when they saw it they said "What is it?" and literally that is what the word manna means.

The people were perplexed by this substance on the ground and they wanted to know what it was and Moses in response said "hey guys this is the good food that the Lord has promised." And then Moses instructed the people to go out and gather whatever each person needed and they were to gather one omer per person...Now an omer is about 10 dry cups or around 2 quarts...So really this was just a huge amount of food that came from the heavens if you think about how many people this had to feed...If you do the estimates on it and take 2 quarts for each person and multiply that by 600,000 men that was 1.2 million quarts of this substance that would fall day in and day out for a full 40 years as God provided for His people.

If you do the math for 40 years it ends up being 17.5 billion quarts of food that God provided out of nothing. The Lord surely blessed His people in this.

Now next week when we come back we'll pick up in our study where we left off tonight and we'll see that the test that the Lord said was going to take place through the provision of manna will be given and we will see how the people of Israel do on the test whether they pass or fail.

I don't know about you but I am thankful for God's daily provision of food not just physically but also His spiritual provision of food in my life through His Word and we'll talk about that next week.

Let's pray and we'll finish with some worship.

Genesis 15-16:16 “The Lord Provides”

Chapter 15

Verse 1

1 Peter 5:10-11

Verses 8-10

2 Peter 3:10

Verses 14-19

Joshua 2:8-10

Verses 25-27

James 1:22-25

Chapter 16

Verses 1-3

1 John 2:16

Verses 9-16

Philippians 2:14

Philippians 4:4