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Exodus 15
8/21/24

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

Exodus 15 is highlighted as a shift towards emphasizing the Jews' relationship with God. The victory over Pharaoh in Exodus is paralleled with the triumph over evil in Revelation, showcasing God's power throughout history. Hebrew poetry and symbolism in the song of praise illustrate God's deliverance and authority.

Discussion Questions

How does the song of praise in Exodus 15 demonstrate God's power and authority over the enemy?

- In Exodus 15, Moses and the Israelites sing a song to celebrate their victory over Pharaoh's army, showcasing God's power and authority.
- Have you experienced God's power or authority in your own life? How can you express gratitude for those experiences?

How is knowing, "Who is the Lord?" important for having a personal relationship with God?

- Pastor Jason explains the central part of the song God answered was, "Who is like the Lord?"
- What steps can you take to deepen your personal relationship with God

What lessons can we learn from the Israelites' quick shift from praise to complaining in Exodus 15?

- Pastor Jason discusses how the Israelites went from praising God after their victory to complaining about their physical needs three days later.
- Why do you think they changed so quickly? How can we maintain a sense of gratitude and trust in God, even when faced with challenges?

How does the tree cast into the bitter waters in Exodus 15 symbolize the cross of Christ?

- Pastor Jason mentions that the tree thrown into the bitter waters to make them sweet serves as a symbolic representation of the cross turning our bitter situations into something sweet.

- In what ways has the cross of Christ impacted your life, and how can you apply this symbolism when facing challenges?

Why is obedience to God's commandments and statutes emphasized in Exodus 15?

- After making the bitter waters sweet, God reminds the Israelites of the importance of obedience for protection and health.
- In what areas of your life do you need to grow in trusting God's commandments, and how can you seek His grace to help you in this process?

Prayer Prompts

- • Thank God for being our strength and salvation
- • Pray for hearts that trust in God's plan and provision
- • Ask for courage to face challenges knowing God fights for us

Teaching Notes:

Chapter 14 marks a change in the theme of Exodus

Chapters 1-14 the Jews are saved FROM slavery

And in 15-40 the Jews are saved FOR relationship with God.

Just as Pharaoh & Egypt represent demonic enemies of God's people...
...the beast, his image, his mark & his name are referred to here.

Revelation 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. **2** And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. **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
4 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.”

Hebrew poetry and song is repetitive instead of rhyming.

And is often read in a more circular pattern with a key thought...
...often coming in the middle & not the end.

15 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.

Singing demonstrates his extreme joy and gladness.

Verse two is a special statement.

“On three special occasions recorded in Scripture, the Jews sing, “The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation” (Ex. 15:2): when God delivered Israel from Egypt, when the Jewish remnant laid the foundation of the second temple (Ps. 118:14),⁶ and when the Jews are regathered and return to their land to enjoy the blessings of the kingdom (Isa. 12:2),” according to Warren Wiersbe.

3 The Lord is a man of war;
The Lord is His name.

He fights for His people and for righteousness.

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.

God has sank their enemies.

6-17 is called an inclusio. It ends & begins in a similar way referring to God’s hand.

6 “Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power;
Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

The right hand is symbolic of power & authority.

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.’

Moses imagined all the Egyptians were planning.

10 You blew with Your wind,
The sea covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Here is the central theme of the song.

11 “Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like You, glorious in holiness,
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

The 2nd half of the song looks forward to what God will do.

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.

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.

Moses looks to future results of the event of their redemption

Now he looks forward to crossing the wilderness & Jordan.

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.

And now to the Promised Land...

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.

The song recounts the beginning purpose & the end goal.

And Moses ends with...

18 “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”
God rules! Yahweh reigns, not just now, but always.

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.

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!”

Miriam has a relationship with & gifts from God as well.

22 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?"

Wilderness is not about salvation, but sanctification...

...The wilderness is where we are tested.

In three days, they go from praise to complaints.

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.

Some see this as symbolic of the cross that makes our bitter situations sweet.

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."

God promises protection & healing.

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