



# **EXODUS - WEEK 15**

## **Worship is Warfare**

**Opening prayer**

**Prayer for the persecuted church:**

**Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Bob Warning and Crossway Church in Menifee.

**Closing prayer**

## **Introduction:**

- Vineyard Worship Days
- Scripture gives over 50 commands to sing

**Psalm 149:1**

# **149 Praise the Lord!**

**Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!**

- This hymn in Exodus 15 is the first hymn in Scripture celebrating the triumphant acts of God in a congregation of God's people.
- In the book of Psalms there are over 30 verses that refer back to this hymn or quote it directly.

# Big Idea: Worship is warfare.

There's a reason we sing every Sunday — God is victorious. And we sing together because corporate worship, congregational worship is different than individual worship. For the simple reason that where two or more are gathered He is in our midst. The experience of God's presence is heightened in a group setting.

# **1. Worship reflects our understanding of the gospel.**

How you worship reflects your understanding of the gospel.

## **Exodus 15:1-3**

**15 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.**

**<sup>2</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;**

How we worship reflects our understanding of the gospel. If we understand salvation, we should sing. And the more deeply we understand the free gift of the gospel, the more passionately we sing.

Anemic (weak, insipid) worship equals an anemic understanding of the gospel. Weak

worship means a weak understanding of the gospel.

So, what does this hymn teach us about worship?

**this is my God, and I will praise him,**

Worship is personal. He's your God who did this for you. Salvation is personal, but it's not simply personal. God saves us into the body of saints worldwide, but He also joins us to a local body of believers.

**my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

Worship is communal. He's not just your God. He's your father's God, the God of all those who've come before us and left us great wisdom and understanding by walking with Him and interpreting His Word. We don't stand apart from Christian history (as in me and my Bible alone), we stand in Christian history. There's a reason you believe Christ has two natures, one fully human and one fully God, because our father's before us spend a couple

hundred years wrestling with that question in light of Scripture.

What else does this hymn teach us about worship?

**<sup>3</sup> The Lord is a man of war;  
the Lord is his name.**

**Isaiah 42:13**

**<sup>13</sup> The Lord goes out like a mighty man,  
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;**

**he cries out, he shouts aloud,  
he shows himself mighty against his  
foes.**

## **Exodus 15:4-5**

**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.**

Here we have a worship song praising the wrath of God

## **2. Worship is warfare.**

Now, why would I say worship is warfare? There are many ways to engage in spiritual warfare. When you pray, you're engaging in spiritual warfare. When you share the gospel you're engaging in spiritual warfare. When you obey God you're engaging in spiritual warfare.

So, when you're doing something God commands, such as worship, you are also engaging in spiritual warfare. Therefore, worship is warfare.

## **Exodus 15:6-12**

**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.'**

Notice in this, how self-centered the enemy is — it's all about how much he's going to do. "I'll do this and I'll do this and I'll do this."

**<sup>10</sup> You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

This entire song is about spiritual warfare. And when we sing such songs about the victory God has won in the cross, our spirits are renewed and our faith in God is uplifted. That's a spiritual victory, because maybe

when you walked in here you were feeling exactly the opposite. Good worship songs are about God's victory, not our feelings. Sing about how God has won the victory for you and you'll be uplifted.

**11 “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glorious deeds, doing  
wonders?**

**12 You stretched out your right hand;  
the earth swallowed them.**

### **3. | Worship exalts the character and nature of God and therefore strengthens your faith.**

Your faith is not built-up by singing about how you feel. Your faith is built-up by singing about the God you serve.

You're not going to feel any better by singing about how you feel. If you take your attention off yourself and focus on the greatness of God, you'll always feel better about things,

because your perspective will have shifted to the Lord.

## **Exodus 15:13-18**

**<sup>13</sup> “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;  
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.**

Worship reminds us of Who is leading the service.

**14 The peoples have heard; they tremble;**

Now they are singing about their future enemies.

**pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.**

**15 Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;  
trembling seizes the leaders of Moab;  
all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted  
away.**

**16 Terror and dread fall upon them;  
because of the greatness of your arm, they  
are still as a stone,**

**till your people, O Lord, pass by,  
till the people pass by whom you have  
purchased.**

It was because of God's reputation these enemies were quiet. God has tied His reputation to His church, the people He has redeemed.

What does the word redemption mean? To purchase with a price. God has redeemed us in Christ. This entire Exodus story points to the redemption we have in Jesus Christ.

**17 You will bring them in and plant them on  
your own mountain,  
the place, O Lord, which you have made for  
your abode,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands  
have established.  
18 The Lord will reign forever and ever.”**

**4. Worship reminds us of the  
sovereign power of God.**

# **Exodus 15:19-23**

**<sup>19</sup> For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.**

So what, a financial crisis has befallen you! Is God not all-powerful? So what, someone has slandered your name! Can their words change the will of God? So what, if you're facing some

fiery trial! Isn't God able to keep the flames from burning you? Is God not all-powerful?

**<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them:**

**“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”**

She sang to remind them. We worship because we forget. We worship to remind ourselves of Who God is.

**<sup>22</sup> Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water.**

Here they are, the people of Israel, who just worshipped the Lord for how great He is and how He has saved them, redeemed them...

**<sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. <sup>24</sup> And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”**

**4. Unbelief always finds someone to blame. Faith always finds a promise to claim.**

## **Exodus 15:25-27**

**<sup>25</sup> And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.**

He prayed and God showed him a log. How in the world does a log make bitter water sweet?

**What kind of sense does that make? This was an object lesson. God said something. Whatever God says can be trusted because God said it. That's how the promises of God work. Look at the log as a promise God has made. Moses took the promise God had provided and that promise turned the bitter water sweet.**

**That's how the promises of God work. They make you sweet about a situation rather than bitter about it, because you see beyond the**

circumstances to the greatness of God. You see God in the circumstances.

**There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them,<sup>26</sup> saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”**

**27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.**

We worship deeply when we camp by the promises of God's word, by the water of the Word.

## **Psalm 1:1-3**

**1 Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the**

**wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and  
night.**

**3 He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.**

**Colossians 3:16**

**<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

## **Revelation 15:3**

**<sup>3</sup> 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!**