



Stir Up Your Song

Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:28 - 15:11 (NKJV)

28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

The Song of Moses

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?

Introduction

There comes a time in a believer’s life when spoken words are simply not enough. The language of speech alone doesn’t quite capture what needs to be expressed. Words alone can seem cliché. Motions can seem rehearsed or muscle memory. But a song....a song goes beyond lyric into the realms where you need courage to walk there. Stepping out into that you may be unsure of.

Speaking publicly is a challenge all by itself but one that can be overcome. To sing publicly while being judged, critiqued, or even heckled takes a special level of boldness and vulnerability. And this is the expression that can immediately transform an atmosphere.

Singing cuts through the tension
It refocuses the heart
It bears the soul
It reveals what’s true and what’s hiding
It seems to subdue time

Singing is powerful!

If you ever want to commit something significant to memory — sing it

If you ever want to pass on vital information and preserve it — sing it

If you ever need to convince others to come into agreement with you about something — sing it

There are various kinds of songs throughout the Bible.

Songs of victory

Songs of lament

Songs of prophecy

Songs of history

Songs of love

Songs of vengeance

There are 3 types of songs I’d like to highlight today

Songs of remembrance

Songs of resistance

Songs of resolution

Songs of Remembrance

Songs are most memorable when they are tied to a real experience. The song of remembrance is perhaps one of the most memorable because it is tied to the history events.

a story is being told

events are being recounted

the melody is interpreting the moments and the narrative

the testimony rings louder than the tune

even if the melody is forgotten, it’s message is unforgettable

The songs of Moses and his sister Miriam are such songs—

We pick up the story at the point of inspiration for the song. God opened the waters of the Red Sea and Moses Israel across the sea bed on dry ground. Pharaoh’s army tried to follow but they were drowned in the sea as the Lord caused the waters to cover them.

Moses pens a song in response to what the Lord had done.

*Exodus 15:1-2 (NKJV) "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;*

I love when Moses says, "the Lord is my strength and my song."

Not only does the Lord have the strength to deliver me, but He also becomes the inspiration and the melody to my song
He's my reason for singing

My testimony of Him is my verse, chorus, bridge and hook

The Author and Finisher of my faith has written a song on my heart from which my soul has learned how to sing!

When do I sing the song of remembrance?

When I see what the Lord has done

When I need to recall what He's done before

When I reflect on Who He Is and what He's able to do

My hindsight is filled with joy because of what He did before

Songs of Resistance

2 Chronicles 20:14-17 (NKJV)

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

2 Chronicles 20:21-23 (NKJV)

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." 22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

One of the toughest things you can do as a believer in God is to lift up a song in the middle of adversity.

There is not a perspective of hindsight here

The battle is not over it's either just about to begin or you've already been fighting and you're in the thick of it!

Israel and Judah were outnumbered and had no way to retreat.

King Jehosaphat went into fasting and cried out to God!

He used his remembrance of the past interventions of the Lord

Past victories that He gave to Israel

He questioned God—"are you not the same God?"

While he also acknowledged, 'that was then—AND this is now!'

What was the Lord's response?

"This battle is NOT yours, it belongs to the Lord"
"You will see them but you won't have to fight them!"
POSITION yourselves; stand still and see the salvation of the Lord who is with you
Do NOT fear or be dismayed.

Something very significant here:
Resistance is posture and position—not always action!

God said, "go out against them," "position yourselves," but you won't have to lift a finger!

The posture and position of resistance shows your confidence in the battle. Notice the order wasn't "do nothing, say nothing."
It was "get in formation" but don't worry—you won't have to fight!

your enemy needs to see you get in position
your enemy needs to know that you've got your confidence back
but he doesn't know how he's about to lose

As Israel and Judah began to sing the songs of praise and resistance, the Lord fulfilled His promise of fighting for them and the two enemy armies turned on one another and killed one another.

Worship is Resistance!
Have we become so passive with our worship that we've forgotten how to "resist" the enemy in worship?

When do I sing the Song of Resistance?

in the present
when I'm in the thick of it
while the testimony is 'still loading'
when I see the insurmountable odds stacked against me
when I feel outnumbered and my back is against the wall
when I feel out of options
when I feel imprisoned and isolated

Songs of Resolution

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NKJV)

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Psalms 91 (NKJV)

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD,
"He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

The Song of Resolutions says:
I've seen what the Lord has done in the past (what He did in the past)
He's seen me through some things when I didn't know how it was going to work out (God's been present with me and is with me now)
Now I resolve in my heart that the Lord is going to be faithful (in any future circumstance)

This is what I know and what I've experienced
This is the God I serve and this is Who He's proven Himself to be

When do I sing a Song of Resolution?
at all times and on any occasion
"I will bless the Lord at all times and His praises shall be in my mouth"
it brings our hindsight, insight and foresight together
it doesn't matter what the outcome is—I'm going to praise You anyway!
if she leaves—I'll praise You
if he stays— I'll praise You
if I win—I'll praise You
if I lose—I'll still praise You

Isaiah 12:2-3 (NKJV)
2 Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
For YAH, the LORD, is my **strength and song**;
He also has become my salvation.' "
3 Therefore with joy you will draw water
From the wells of salvation.

Look at the symmetry of what Isaiah wrote and what Moses wrote. "The Lord is my strength and song."

The God who brought Israel through the waters becomes the source from which His people draw with joy.

Stir Up Your Song

Stir: Provoke, incite, whip up a song of praise to God
Provoke a different outcome
Shift the narrative of defeat into resistance and resolution
Drown out the voices of your own doubts and your doubters
Give melody to your faith and belief in God
Allow the Lord to join the song and teach you the next verse
Songs of Lament have their place too
Songs of petition have their place too
What is your song to God today?

One of the great abiding comforts we have in the Lord is found in Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)
17 The LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing."

Yes the Lord sings and He sings over you today!

When does the Lord sing over you?
Before Pharaoh's army advances
Before you were aware of your enemies
Before the fight where you're outnumbered

Before your arrest and before you're thrown in prison

Before your release

Before your hindsight, insight or foresight ever kick-in. God has already sung over you.