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Teaching Notes

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Celebrating God's Powerful Salvation

Exodus 15:1-21

I. The True Purpose of Salvation: The Praise of His Glorious Grace

A. Praise the End of Salvation

Ephesians 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

B. "God Gets the Glory, We Get the Joy"

C. Praise Perfected in Heaven

Revelation 7:9-12 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

D. The Song of Moses

Revelation 15:1-3 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues-- last, because with them God's wrath is completed. 2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

E. The Biblical Role of Song and Music

1. Music is a gift of God

2. Words have great power to be remembered and make a deep impact

Deuteronomy 31:19-22 "Now write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. 20 When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. 21 And when many disasters and difficulties come upon them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath." 22 So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

Song is Deuteronomy 32... which did in fact predict the whole history of the Jews in the Promised Land before they were

3. Music drives the content deep into the consciousness

4. Again and again God's people used music to express their faith and their triumph over their enemies

- The Song of Deborah in Judges 5
- David's life as Israel's "Singer of Songs"

2 Samuel 23:1-2 These are the last words of David: "The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel's singer of songs: 2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue."

- Solomon perhaps the greatest composer of sacred songs in history

1 Kings 4:32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.

- Nehemiah: rebuilding of the wall celebrated in song
- Isaiah:

Isaiah 12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

- Commanded in the New Testament:

Ephesians 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

James 5:13 *Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.*

Two Parts of the Praise

1-12 Looking Backward with Praise

13-18 Looking Forward with Faith

II. Looking Backward with Praise (1-12)

1 *"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song; 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 warrior; the LORD is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.*

6 *"Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. 7 In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. 8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.*

9 *"The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.' 10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.*

11 *"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.*

A. To the Victor Goes the Spoils

1. Note of absolute exultation in triumph

2. Vicious foe who meant their destruction has been destroyed

Psalm 9:15-16 *The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden. 16 The LORD is known by his justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. Higgsion. Selah*

3. Celebration totally appropriate after a battle

Isaiah 9:3-6 *You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined*

for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

B. Focus: On the Greatness of God and His Power to Save

Like the best hymns of our faith, this hymn focuses on the

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

1. God is a warrior

vs. 3-5 The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

2. God's enemies will be destroyed

- a. essence of liberal theology: fatherhood of God, brotherhood of man
- b. God's wrath against sinners is greatly downplayed if existent at all
- c. such a watering-down is foreign to the scriptures
- d. the Jews take great delight in the fact that their enemies have been so thoroughly trounced

3. So also for us a future triumph over our enemies is guaranteed

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:14-15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

C. Impossibility of Liberal Interpretation of Red Sea Passing

"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song; 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 warrior; the LORD is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

6 "Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. 7 In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. 8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 "The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.' 10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.

- Liberal commentators tend to look at the Exodus as myth anyway
- Pseudo-conservative commentators are constantly trying to appease their liberal colleagues in academia, so they write things like this:

"No one yet has given any convincing extrabiblical hint, much less proof, of any single part of the historical narrative.... This is not of course to say that the events and persons referred to by Exodus are not historical, only that we have no historical proof of them. Thus it is far better to speak of the narrative of Exodus *in* history rather than *as* history..." John I. Durham, *Exodus* (WBC)

- Most liberal commentators begin with the mis-translation of "Red Sea" which in Hebrew is *Yam suph*
- It is true that "suph" usually means "reeds" or bulrushes, but the Septuagint uses the word "red" as in Isaiah 63:2

Isaiah 63:2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?

- Amazingly, one commentator said "There are no reeds in the Red Sea..." What amazing arrogance... That he has investigated the whole Red Sea and found no reeds anywhere is hard to believe... but how does he know there weren't any back then?
- Also, "suph" was used in Jonah to speak of seaweed:

Jonah 2:5 The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

- Liberal commentators thus look for a swampy marsh, rather than a deep sea:
- Pseudo-conservative ones follow right along:

R. Alan Cole, Tyndale, published by IVP: “The Hebrew *yam suph* is better translated ‘Sea of Reeds’ (or even ‘papyrus marsh’...) It may be a definite place-name belonging to one particular spot, or it may simply be the generic term for any shallow area of water overgrown with reeds, rather as we might say ‘mangrove swamp’ today. In the latter case, an exact identification is impossible. This broad general description would fit many points north of the Gulf of Suez, between the Gulf and the Mediterranean coast, where there is a chain of shallow marshy lagoons, roughly along the line of the present Suez Canal.”

- God blew His strong east wind, says Cole, and dried up one of these shallow lagoon beds
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III. Looking Forward with Faith (13-18)

13 "In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. 14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. 15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away; 16 terror and dread will fall upon them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone-- until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people you bought pass by. 17 You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance-- the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established. 18 The LORD will reign for ever and ever."

IV. Praise Repeated (19-21)

19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

V. Themes of the Song of Moses

- A. Sung TO Lord, Sung ABOUT the Lord
- B. The Lord's Mighty Power On Display
 1. Power to destroy His enemies

2. Power to save His children
- C. Terrifying Wrath Against Enemies
- D. Worship Based on Historical Facts
1. “Then sang...”
 2. Recounting of the events
 3. Debunking the liberals
 - a. Exodus a myth
 - b. “Sea of Reeds” ... really crossed a swamp
- E. Salvation Now Accomplished At Last
- F. Future Salvation Also Guaranteed

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, "I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.

2 "The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him.

3 "The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.

4 "Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 "The deeps cover them; They went down into the depths like a stone.

6 "Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

7 "And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.

8 "At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up, The flowing waters stood up like a heap; The deeps were 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 gratified against them; I will draw out my sword, my hand will 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 among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?

12 "You stretched out Your right hand, The earth swallowed them.

13 "In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.

14 "The peoples have heard, they tremble; Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia.

15 "Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed; The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them; All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

16 "Terror and dread fall upon them; By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone; Until Your people pass over, O LORD, Until the people pass over whom You have purchased.

17 "You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

18 "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

19 For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing.

21 Miriam answered them, "Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea."