

## **Lessons from the Exodus 7 11-16-00**

### Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

On one side of the Sea they are complaining that Moses brought them there to die - on this side they are rejoicing in the victory that God wrought - a permanent one over a 400 year old enemy. It was not their strength or wisdom that saved them. Omnipotent God saved them. He - himself was their strength. Not their battle readiness, or muscles or armor, but the Lord Himself was their strength. In the same way, He is their song. They do not sing of themselves, or of their prowess, but of God. Is He your song? We tend to think of getting strength **from** Him and singing **of** Him, but that is not what is written here. He - himself is their strength. He himself is their song. We aren't getting something, we are letting Him be something in us.

He himself became their salvation. Now, recognize that it is not just salvation from an enemy or death, for there are more enemies to come, but in 14:31 they have placed their trust in the LORD. He became their physical and spiritual Savior. My Elohim- all powerful Creator, the patriarch's God is mine too, for now they have experienced God as they did. They say they will exalt Him - but that commitment will not last long.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.<sup>4</sup> Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.<sup>5</sup> The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.<sup>6</sup> "Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.<sup>7</sup> In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> "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.'<sup>10</sup> But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Their armor in which they trusted was the weight that ensured their doom. If we trust in something other than the Lord himself, we're going to sink! The hand of power and action, God's right hand, is raised against his enemies. Notice the Lord's hand in verse 6. He can smite you with it or lay it on you in anointing. I want it on me in blessing not against me! In the same way the breath that breathed life into Adam, spirit, that divided the sea to save, that brings the Holy Spirit, can also bring justice on those who oppose His righteous ways. What determines the difference? Israel had called on the Lord, looked to Him and were following Him - the cloud, and not their own wisdom. Egypt was after them as a labor commodity. They knew they were fighting God and they didn't care.

Aldous Huxley author of *Brave New World* wrote in his work *Ends and Means* a summary of every man's rejection of God, and God's will in this world. He wrote: "I want this world not

to have meaning, because it frees me to my own erotic and my own political pursuits." In other words he declares his prejudice that he does not want to face the fact that there is a God. Why? Because he would then be obligated by the fact that he is God's creation to conform to the will of that Creator. Because he has convictions that some of his desires are not in the will of that Creator, he chooses to believe He does not exist and therefore the world is without meaning. That was Pharaoh's choice. I hope it is not your choice.

The choice to submit our life and follow God's plan brings the hand of blessing, the breath of the Spirit. The choice to rebel against the Creator and his will brings the hand of judgement and the wind of destruction. We see this played out time and time again in the Bible, in history, in our own experiences.

At first Pharaoh went to bring them back to use again as slave labor but Satanic inspiration always ends in destructive desire, for he comes to kill, steal and destroy.

<sup>11</sup> "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?<sup>12</sup> You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.<sup>13</sup> "In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

There is none like you. No one compares. He is majestic in holiness - Creator of all, standing alone as the Eternal One. The outshining of his attributes (glory) is awesome. For most men, to see the outshining of their heart is ugly and repulsive. For God it is totally awesome. He works wonders. No one else can do the things He does. They can only imitate in a poor, limited way, his wondrous works. Right now the Israelites can see his clear leading and realize He has redeemed them for a purpose. What about in three days? Will they still trust and believe in his unfailing love, that the same love they experience now is what is leading them then?

<sup>14</sup> The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia.<sup>15</sup> The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> The LORD will reign for ever and ever."

They expressed faith that God would continue to fight for them and defeat their enemies as He had just done. Mountain is often a figure of a Kingdom. Verse 17 expresses faith that God will establish them as a nation and reign forever in their midst. But will they be submitted subjects forever? God reigns in our midst now. Let us be submitted subjects daily.

<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.<sup>21</sup> Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

The Waters of Marah and Elim

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

Test #2 They are led by the cloud directly to the first spring, a three day journey. The test was if they truly meant the song in the first part of the chapter. Is his unfailing love guiding when we can't see it? Is the Lord their song when things are tough? Is God still incomparable - vs 11? God is testing the depth of their comprehension, their commitment to the truth He has taught. We need these tests to drive home the truths we have learned, or we readily fall back to our unregenerate way of thinking. Our minds need to be renewed, so that we have the mind of Christ. So that when the trials come, we think with conviction that God is our deliverer and Savior, that He has a plan in it all. He will bring it all together to work good in our lives. That is renewed thinking, that is the mind of Christ.

<sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.)

They are led right up to a bitter spring. Why God? To show them Egypt is still in them. They still have a trust in the physical, eyes on the world around them, a lack of trust in the cloud going before them. They must have used up most or all of their stored water for they ask Moses what they are suppose to drink? Has God ever led you to bitter water and your first thought is, "why in the world has God done this? He knows my need, I am his child, and He brings me here?" What is the bitter water you have been led up to? A relationship? a circumstance? financial difficulties? Disappointment? You are in need but here before you is this bitter trial.

<sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

They just sang this wonderful song, placed their trust in the LORD and in Moses. Now they are whining -"What are we to drink, Moses?" As if Moses was in charge of the cloud? Sounds reasonable, unless you just three days earlier walked through an ocean on dry ground. Then you would expect more faith in what God can do. I'm tempted all the time to do the same with this fellowship? Where in the world are you leading, Lord? And sometimes you may think, "why in the world is he preaching on this, or are we meeting here." I'm just trying to follow the cloud. I think you are too.

What would have been the appropriate response to the situation? Looking to the Lord as Moses was about to do. What is the appropriate response to your situation today in light of the redemption God has provided for you? You see just as the Children of Israel could look back to the redemption from Egypt, you can look back to your redemption from sin. With eyes on that redemption how should you respond to your present trial?

<sup>25</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them.

Moses has the right response. He seeks the answer from God. He hears and by faith obeys. The bitter waters are made sweet. A piece of wood was thrown in to the water of humanity

– years later - in the shape of a cross, and the waters that come in contact with it have become sweet, and not bitter. Are you still bitter, focussed on what your eyes can see, or seeking God for your need, clinging to the cross that transforms bitterness into sweetness. The trial is still there, it just has a different flavor. When you know He led you there in his goodness, his unfailing love, and you continue to sing the song you know to be true of the unchanging Redeemer, the trial has a different flavor. When you know it is his unfailing love how can you complain about it? It is thirst quenching instead of bitter. It meets your need instead of making it worse. Do as Moses did, just listen and obey and watch God work. Now, instead of destroying these complainers for failing the test, he gives them a decree and law...

<sup>26</sup> He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

IF - a conditional decree based on what you do. If you will listen carefully to God's voice, and do what is right, if you pay attention to his commands and obey, the plagues that came on Egypt will not come on you. And here God reveals Himself in a new way to them - Jehovah Raphah, the Lord that heals. Just as He healed the water, IF you will listen and obey, He will heal you. The Egyptians had numerous plagues and diseases. The Laws that God gave Moses included sanitation laws that were completely different from those of Egypt. These divinely given laws included things like quarantining certain contagious illnesses, cleaning with running water which prevented spread of infection, dietary laws for health, most of them we did not know why they worked until this century. They just obeyed by faith and reaped the good results. But the real healing is in the Words of Jesus. As Moses would prophecy in Deut 18:15 You must listen to Him. For in listening to Jesus, our Redeemer, we have spiritual health and are delivered from the worse plague of all, sin. Are you listening? Are you experiencing Jehovah Raphah, the Lord that heals?

<sup>27</sup> Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

A respite for the people, a spring for every tribe. The place is still there, today. Sometimes after a major spiritual battle God gives us a time to absorb it and learn from it. The next lesson will come soon enough. We need time to absorb what we have learned so it is a part of our renewed mind and so that we don't have to repeat the same lesson.