

The people that left Egypt had just been on an emotional roller coaster. The mighty hand of God's judgments upon their oppressors freed them. Then they appeared destined for slaughter as Pharaoh's army had them boxed in at the Red Sea. The sea parted and they went through on dry ground. Pharaoh's army recklessly pursued and God released the waters drowning every soldier.

They had probably wondered if they were really free until the moment those waves collapsed upon the soldiers. Now they knew their redemption was complete. There was no longer a reason to fear! God had conquered the army of Pharaoh right before their eyes. If God could do that, is there anything He could not do to bring them into the Promised Land? (Isaiah 43:2-4)

In that moment of great victory, there was such a relief, that they had to sing. (Psalm 106:9-12) It is a song that primarily extols God for His greatness. *"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.* It was solely the Lord's victory. He didn't need their help. He didn't just triumph; He triumphed gloriously! The song doesn't even mention Moses. How unlike the world's songs of victory!

As we go through this song, there is a way that you, as the redeemed of the Lord, can relate. You were redeemed from the slavery of sin. Sin was a hard taskmaster, but the judgments of God fell on Jesus instead of you, and you were redeemed. (Isaiah 53:5) But so that you might not have to look over your shoulder on the way to our Promised Land, wondering if the enemy was going to overtake you, Jesus rose from the dead. (Romans 5:25) **That act was the defeating blow to the enemy of your soul.** Jesus conquered death. He triumphed over the forces that were against you. They are defeated once and for all. Is there anything God cannot do to bring us into the Promised Land of heaven? (Romans 8:32)

Yes, there is still some mopping up action to be done. (Hebrews 10:12-14; 1Corinthians 15:28) The enemy is still out there fighting his guerrilla warfare, but the mission is accomplished. The war was won. The rest is just clean up and training to prepare you for eternity. Resurrection was the defeat of Satan's army, and it's something to sing about! (1Peter 3:22)

We need to exalt God in song too! We sing of the Savior's victory that He won single handedly. Jesus triumphed gloriously. That is, He showed the attributes of God on the cross and in the resurrection. Glorious! (1Peter 1:21) We just stood still and watched the salvation of God.

² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord

Commented [Paul Wall1]: Isaiah 43:2-4 (ESV)
 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
 4 Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

Commented [Paul Wall2]: Psalm 106:9-12 (ESV)
 9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert.
 10 So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.
 11 And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left.
 12 Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.

Commented [Paul Wall3]: Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)
 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Commented [Paul Wall4]: Romans 4:25 (ESV)
 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Commented [Paul Wall5]: Romans 8:32 (ESV)
 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Commented [Paul Wall6]: Hebrews 10:12-14 (ESV)
 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,
 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.
 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Commented [Paul Wall7]: 1 Corinthians 15:28 (ESV)
 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Commented [Paul Wall8]: 1 Peter 3:22 (ESV)
 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Commented [Paul Wall9]: 1 Peter 1:21 (ESV)
 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

is my strength, my spiritual strength. The Israelites weren't strong enough to fight Egypt's war machine. The Lord was their strength and continued to be so. We couldn't fight Satan. (Romans 8:3) The Lord had to be our strength and continues to be so!

Commented [Paul Wall10]: Romans 8:3 (ESV)
3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

YHWH is our song! He is the song they sang. (Psalm 118:14) It was all about Him. And He is the song that we sing. I love the songs that focus on Jesus. There's Just Something About That Name; Sweetest Name I Know; Praise the Name of Jesus; Jesus is All the World to Me; His Name is Wonderful; and so many more. He is our song!

Commented [Paul Wall11]: Psalm 118:14 (ESV)
14 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

He has become my salvation! They were saved from Pharaoh and from slavery. We were saved from Satan and the slavery of the flesh and sin. He has become our salvation! Jesus (Yeshua) means salvation of the LORD! (Matthew 1:21)

Commented [Paul Wall12]: Matthew 1:21 (ESV)
21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

He may have not been your father's god like He was for these Israelites, but as our father of faith is Abraham, we can join with that mixed multitude in claiming Abraham as our father too. (Galatians 3:29) Since God is our strength, our song, our salvation, and our father's God, we will praise and exalt Him! We better praise and exalt Him.

Commented [Paul Wall13]: Galatians 3:29 (ESV)
29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

If you have the KJV you have a slightly different translation. Instead of "I will praise Him", you have "I will prepare him an habitation". *Nawa* is a Hebrew word that means to rest, as at home, and contains the idea of beauty. It can mean to keep at home or prepare a habitation. The implication is praise but the word is much richer. It's to rest in the Lord as if He's at home with you as you praise His beauty. That's a great description of how we should regard our salvation. (Psalm 27:4; John 14:23)

Commented [Paul Wall14]: Psalm 27:4 (ESV)
4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

³ *The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.* War isn't politically correct anymore. We are so shocked at the horror of war and the cost in life that we have distaste for war. But it's because the Lord is good that He is a warrior against evil. He is at war with the oppressor. He is a man of war against all wrong and injustice. He won't let evil go unpunished. (Proverbs 11:31) He defeated Pharaoh and He defeated Satan through the cross and resurrection. Thank God He is a man of war or we'd be in big trouble.

Commented [Paul Wall15]: John 14:23 (ESV)
23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

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.* The deeps congealed sounds like the wall of water was like jello. God changed the consistency of the seawater so that it stood up in walls on each side of the path through the sea until Pharaoh's army was in the middle of it. Then it returned to its normal state and with all their armor on, they sank like a stone.

Commented [Paul Wall16]: Proverbs 11:31 (ESV)
31 If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

The victory over the enemy of our soul was no less complete. Just as Pharaoh was out for blood (^{9b} *I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.*) Satan is out to destroy you and me! (John 10:10) They both thought they were about to gain a final victory when it ended up being their demise. You see, God can even forecast what He will do and the enemy is still helpless to change the course of events. (Job 9:10-12) What a mighty God!

¹¹ *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"* Who indeed! There is no one like our God. Even the descriptions of other so-called gods don't come close to the majesty and splendor of our holy God. Their deliverance from Egypt was filled with wonders and glorious deeds, but the cross and resurrection surpasses them all. It is THE awesome, glorious deed. It is the wonder of God. The gods of the nations are still in their graves. Our God not only conquered death but He erased our sin debt in the process and credited us with the righteousness of God. (2Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9) What an awesome glorious deed! We should never forget the wonder of that event! It should always be with us like the journey through the sea was with Israel but more so.

¹³ *"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode."* There is that term again, *hesed*. ESV calls it steadfast love; KJV calls it mercy; NIV uses unfailing love. All are true. It was God's merciful, unfailing love that led them out of captivity, and through the wilderness. That is what led us to salvation and leads us through the wilderness of life. And where are we headed? The Promised Land is God's holy abode. We are going home, to our Father's house. (John 14:2) It is there that we will live forever. The strength of God will see us safely home. He delivered us and He will see us home, all by His steadfast love and His own strength.

You might get battle-worn and wonder if you can make it. Let me assure you that you can't! But the strength of the Lord will! His unfailing mercy will!

The testimony of what God had done put the fear of God in many of the surrounding nations. They knew what God did to Egypt and many times they stood back and let Israel pass by because of that testimony.

Your testimony of deliverance is also a powerful tool to get the attention of the world. (1Peter 3:15) If God can bring you out of the slavery of sin, He can do the same for them. It causes them consider the strength of the Lord and His ability to save.

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.* Because of the wording of this verse, some have

Commented [Paul Wall17]: John 10:10 (ESV)
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Commented [Paul Wall18]: Job 9:10-12 (NIV)
10 He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.
11 When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he goes by, I cannot perceive him.
12 If he snatches away, who can stop him? Who can say to him, 'What are you doing?'

Commented [Paul Wall19]: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)
21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Commented [Paul Wall20]: Philippians 3:9 (ESV)
9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

Commented [Paul Wall21]: John 14:2 (NIV)
2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Commented [Paul Wall22]: 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)
15 but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

suggested this chapter was inserted later after the Temple was built. The vocabulary and grammar, however, suggest that it is a very old song. Mountain often represents kingdom and the word translated “sanctuary” is simply “holy place”. Together you have the Holy Land. The hand of the Lord will plant them in the Holy Land. It need not just mean the Temple in Jerusalem but the whole land of Israel, which is more fitting to the context. (Psalm 78:54)

Commented [Paul Wall23]: Psalm 78:54 (ESV)
54 And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.

Again, let us take this personally. The hand of the Lord will bring us in and plant us in His holy kingdom. He will see us safely to our heavenly home. It is His doing. The trip is easier if you will cooperate, but He is the One that makes us a part of the final sanctuary of God. The fact that this song points to our ultimate redemption is evident in the fact that **the song we will sing in heaven is called the Song of Moses and of the Lamb!** (Revelation 15:3)

Commented [Paul Wall24]: Revelation 15:3 (ESV)
3 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!"

That was the song! Moses sister, Miriam, turned it into a praise chorus of two lines, tambourine and all. I can't imagine it being sung only once through, can you? They surely repeated it many times. You have Moses' hymn rich in theology and Miriam's praise chorus to sing our joy from the heart. Both are good! Both are beneficial and edifying. Did everyone hear that? Enough said!

Now, after such an amazing time of complete deliverance and celebration, you would think that they would maintain that grateful attitude for months or years to come. Amen? How about three days?

22 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. We aren't sure what Shur means or where Shur is but we can be sure that Shur is surely in the wilderness, and it's also a spiritual place I'm sure you will visit many times. (Psalm 66:10)

Commented [Paul Wall25]: Psalm 66:10 (ESV)
10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

Remember that the cloud is leading them, that great column of cloud that went before and shaded them from the intensity of the sun. For three days it led them until they arrived at the first watering hole. Any water they had would have been carried with them. They were probably about out of water for themselves and their herds.

23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) They finally arrive and the water is undrinkable. I don't know if it was called Marah before or if something had polluted this spring before they arrived and so they called it Marah.

Many generations later Naomi will change her name to Mara because she is bitter over the death of her husband and sons. (Ruth 1:20) Bitterness can be a condition of the heart or a taste that makes something unpalatable.

Commented [Paul Wall26]: Ruth 1:20 (ESV)
20 She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

The people started to become bitter about the bitter water. They began to complain. After all, they had children and elderly among them. Did they remember that just a few days earlier they had been singing that the Lord was their strength, their song, and their salvation?

Sometimes when we declare something, the Lord will test us to show us that we haven't quite attained to the stature we thought we had. We understand something with our mind, but the first test that comes along reveals our heart is not really at rest, at home, with the truth.

²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Why are they grumbling against Moses? The cloud led them there! Well, some people have the good sense to realize it's not a good idea to complain to God, especially after He has marvelously delivered you. So, instead, they again pick on His servant. "He's an easy target. He's meek. What's he gonna do, call down a lightning bolt? Complain to him! He's the one that came and got us out of comfortable Egypt. There was plenty of water there!"

Realize that they have a legitimate and urgent need. Our complaints are often something very legitimate, but an illegitimate response. What would the right response have been to the circumstance? It would have been to look the One that they sang was their salvation and their strength. (Psalm 50:15) Why didn't they ask Him for the answer to the situation?

Grumbling against God ordained leadership is deeply entrenched tendency of the flesh. It is one that that generation will never really walk in victory over and it will cause them immense problems, eventually their death.

Moses did what they should have done. He did what we should do. *²⁵ 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.* God miraculously gave him the solution. It sounds like that log somehow absorbed the bitterness of the water or neutralized whatever the problem was. It may have been a supernatural answer with a natural solution or a miracle.

Just think how God had prepared that tree for that very moment to be the solution to the problem and to teach His people. But even greater, is the fact that God prepared the cross, the solution to sin, from before the creation of the world. (Revelation 13:8) Though this isn't the lesson of the passage, we can see a parallel in how the cross takes the bitterness out of life and provides living water to refresh us and enable us to make it through our journey. (John 7:37)

There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ 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

Commented [Paul Wall27]: Psalm 50:15 (ESV) 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

Commented [Paul Wall28]: Revelation 13:8 (ESV) 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain.

Commented [Paul Wall29]: John 7:37 (ESV) 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer." This was the Lord's lesson. Life will present you with all kinds of difficulties. You will be tested over and over again, but if you will listen to the voice of the LORD, and do what is right, obey His commandments, then He will be JHWH Rapha to us – the Lord that heals. The ailments of Egypt won't follow them to the Promised Land.

Affliction is often the way that the Lord gets our attention. (Psalm 119:75) If we will listen and obey, He won't need to get our attention. That is what was happening here. Where would they turn in the difficulty? Would they look to the Lord? Would they listen to His voice? No! They blamed the leader and demanded he do something. God is warning them that the test will come again. It doesn't have to if they will listen. God healed the water, and God can heal them and us, if we will listen and obey.

Now remember, Jesus told us that not all affliction was the result of sin. (John 9:2-3) However, it is often the way that God gets us to face our sin. Learn the lesson without the illustration. Listen now. Obey now, and God will be JHWH Rapha to us.

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water. As soon as the lesson was taught, they got a reprieve, a spring for every tribe and the shade of the palm for each elder. God gives us times of rest.

How quickly we go from celebrating God to complaining about our next situation! Remember, God is guiding us through it all and testing us to see if we believe today what we sang about yesterday. (1Chronicles 16:12) He has lessons for us in it. He is fixing those truths in our heart so we will react differently next time. This is a statute of God. If we will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD our God, and do what is right in his eyes, and give ear to His commandments and keep His statutes, we won't be afflicted like the world. He will be the LORD our healer until the day we totally healed and sing the Song of Moses and of the Lamb before the throne of God. (Revelation 21:4)

Questions

- 1 How is the Song of Moses different from the world's songs of victory?
- 2 How is our song similar to that of Moses'?
- 3 Why is it necessary for God to be a warrior?
- 4 What attribute of God leads us through life?
- 5 What is the song we sing in heaven? Why?
- 6 How long did their joy last?
- 7 What was wrong with their complaint?

Commented [Paul Wall30]: Psalm 119:75 (ESV)
75 I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

Commented [Paul Wall31]: John 9:2-3 (ESV)
2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Commented [Paul Wall32]: 1 Chronicles 16:12 (ESV)
12 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

Commented [Paul Wall33]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)
4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

8 How was the statute related to the test? different from the world's songs of victory?