

## Exodus Chapter 15 Commentary

**Ex 15:1 ¶ "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."**

This is the song that every born-again person should sing. Why? Because, just as God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, he has saved us from the bondage of our sinful flesh nature and Satan. God has given us a deliverance that merits our praise and worship.

Think of the deliverance of the children of Israel and apply it to your own life. In your life, as a Christian, it was the Holy Spirit, working in your heart and mind, which opened your eyes, and made you understand that under the satanic bondage of your inherit flesh nature, you were on a pathway of eternal destruction. In the new birth, you are given spiritual eyes and understanding, which cause you to see your own sins, past and present, as the army of Pharaoh in pursuit of your body and soul. You see Pharaoh, and the Egyptian army, as Satan, and his devils, desiring to either kill you, or bring you back into bondage. They are the forces of evil that would destroy all the hope of God's salvation manifested in your life.

Remember, as God used Moses to lead Israel out of the bondage of Egypt and through the Red Sea; God has used Jesus Christ: to deliver us from the bondage of our sinful flesh nature and Satan. As God provided Israel a pathway through the sea: Christ has prepared a pathway, the straight gate, and a narrow way, for us through the sin sea of life in this sinful world.

Israel is leaving Egypt behind, and they are on the march to a land of promise: When we are born again, we are leaving behind the bondage of our old sinful flesh nature, and we are, in our new life in Christ, beginning our march through the wilderness of sin, this world, to the eternal land of promise.

This is the song of Salvation by the grace of God, which we should always be singing forth the praise of our great deliverer, Jesus Christ. This is why Israel, on their way to the temple, and in the temple, sang the Hallel Psalms.

**2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him."**

If God, by his marvelous grace, has caused you to be born again, you understand that God is your salvation, in and through Jesus Christ. Your strength in the Christian life is "**Christ in you**," the indwelling Holy Spirit. Now you have a song to sing. I have been born again. Jesus Christ has saved me from my sins.

How do you prepare him, Jesus, a habitation? If the life you live is all about me, and what I want, then you are not preparing a habitation for Jesus; but you are living a life of idolatry. You prepare a habitation for Jesus and continue to exalt the name of God and Christ, by living a Christian life dedicated to "**thus saith the Lord**." Your manifestation of this life is by making your public profession of faith in the finished work of Jesus. When you join the church, you are declaring that Jesus is my strength, my song, my salvation, and my one and only God. When you live the biblically defined Christian life, you are exalting the name of Jesus.

**3 "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name."**

Who is the man of war? For Israel it was God. God chose Israel to be his nation of people. God miraculously created, and performed, all the miracles of the plagues that caused the Egyptians to drive Israel out of their land. It was God who provided the way through the Red Sea and overthrew the Egyptians in the depts of the sea. Israel only did what God told them to do.

The same is true for you and me in our Christian life. Who is our man of war? Jesus Christ. God chose us and imparted to us newness of life in the new birth. Jesus did for us what we could not do. Jesus overcame our sinful flesh nature and our captor Satan. It is the power of Christ, which is leading you through the sea of life in this 'wilderness of sin' on earth. Having been given life in Christ, we understand what scripture teaches in: **Ac 4:12** "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**" Jesus is the one and only Saviour, he is our Saviour, he is my Saviour. If you believe that you have anything to do with your eternal salvation, and the eternal forgiveness of your sins, you are still in the galls of bitterness and deceit.

**4 "Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone."**

God has faithfully destroyed the Egyptians that were pursuing Israel, just as he had told them he would do. Jesus Christ has destroyed our sins and removed them from God's sight in the eternal perspective? Here are some scriptures that teach us this truth:

- **Ps 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."**
- **Jer 31:34 "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."**
- **Heb 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."**
- **Heb 10:17 "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."** Consider: how can you know that your sins have been forgiven, if you have not already been born again? Knowing your sins are eternally forgiven in Jesus Christ is the evidence needed to prove to you that you are a born-again child of God.

We must remember that forgiveness of sins is applied in the eternal perspective. We shall see, as we continue following Israel, that there is a consequence to be borne for disobedience to God, here in time. We do experience the blessing of knowledge, of the eternal remission of sins, and God's salvation, here in time. This is why we rejoice in the finished work of Jesus Christ, knowing we are freed from the bondage of our sinful flesh nature, and that we can continue to overcome, as seen in scripture in: **1Jo 4:4 ¶ "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."** We overcome our inherit flesh nature, in the power of Christ in us. If you trust in any other power: you will fail to win that daily battle against the sinful flesh nature.

**6 "Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy."**

Why would they say, and sing, "**thy right hand?**" Just as in nature, most people are right-handed and their greatest strength is in their right hand, so they apply this thought to God. However, remember in: **Ex 14:19 "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them;"** We stated then that this "**angel of the Lord**" was the preincarnate Son of God.

We believe Israel recognized "**the angel of God**," as the "**right hand of God**," because their deliverance was by God's power. Having the New Testament scriptures, we understand that this is the preincarnate Christ Jesus. Because we understand from scripture that Jesus Christ is depicted as the "**right hand**" of God, seen in:

- **Ps 17:7 "Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them."** God has always saved, and continues to save, his people through Jesus Christ, as demonstrated by the following texts.
- **Heb 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"**
- **Heb 8:1¶ "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"**
- **Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."**
- **1Pe 3:22 "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."**

Salvation comes in many forms. In this case: God, through "**the angel of God**," and by his unlimited power, has overthrown and destroyed the Egyptian armies and saved Israel from their persecution and bondage.

However, eternal salvation comes only by the eternal remission of sins, which was accomplished by Jesus Christ. We shall see the eternal salvation of all of God's people, from before and after, the first coming of Jesus Christ, manifested at his second return in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, when all God's people will be raised from the dead, or if alive be changed, and they shall all have glorified sinless bodies. All these bodies will be sinless because of what Jesus did in his first coming. Then will we see with clarity the prophetic

picture of the words "**thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.**" How? For God's people, sin will be ended, and death will be no more.

**7 "And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. 8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea."**

The children of Israel recognize that their enemies are also God's enemies, and we should recognize the same in our Christian lives. After all: when you are born-again you have "**Christ in you;**" wherefore, our enemies are also God's enemies.

As Israel sings of the salvation of God in their lives; so, it should be in ours, because Jesus Christ has provided the way of salvation by grace for us through this sea of life, in this world. The difference in the picture for us and Israel is that Israel physically saw the delivering hand of God at work, while we were not present to see the delivering hand of Christ at work, as he accomplished our salvation on the cross. The greatness of the excellency of Jesus Christ, the only sinless human body that ever has existed, was manifested and by the life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Jesus overcame every enemy that was put before him.

When Jesus resurrected himself from the dead, the wrath of God against God's people was satisfied, and the enemies of God and his people were consumed. Just as the Egyptians no longer existed in the lives of the Israelites, except as a memory, and could no longer have power to destroy or enslave them, so it is in our Christian lives. With the new birth, the enemies of God are driven forth from the abode of Christ in you, and they no longer have any power to overcome or captivate you in any way to destroy your eternal life.

Do not misunderstand and believe that you will not have the presence of sin and Satan in your life here in time. Israel was freed forever from bondage to Egypt, but they no face a new set of enemies and are beset on every side by dangers. There biggest enemy is that of self and I want to do what I want to do. So, it is in our Christian life, with the new birth: we are freed from the eternal bondage of sin and Satan; but as our lives continue on earth in time, we have new enemies on every side, the greatest of which is our own fleshly sin nature, which simply is always at war with us by wanting to fulfill the lust thereof.

**"the floods stood upright as an heap,"** A picture of our eternal salvation in which Jesus has by the blast of his breath caused the waters of sinfulness to stand upright as a wall on either side of us, leaving us a path of righteousness to follow in his footsteps. **"and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea."** The depths, of the depravity of sin, have congealed and can no longer interfere with our eternal life, just as the Egyptians could no longer meddle with the Israelites.

The prophetic picture for us is the finished work of Jesus Christ has, by the power of his great love, created a safe pathway for God's people through the sea of life, which lead us to an eternal abode with him in the eternal heaven and earth.

**9 "The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."**

You can rest assured: just as the Egyptians pursued Israel in the pathway of salvation; Satan and his minions are pursuing every child of God in their Christian walk in the sea of life. Satan's goal is to turn every heir of grace from God to himself and make them be slaves to himself again. Just as Pharoah believed that he could destroy Israel, God's chosen nation of people, Satan believes that he can destroy all of God's chosen people. However, just as God, through Christ, delivered Israel from Pharoah and the Egyptians, Jesus Christ has saved us from Satan and his devils and evil spirits.

When it seems like the devil has gotten the upper hand and all is lost to us: it is time to remember the surety of our salvation. It is time to remember that we have been given eternal life in Christ. If we have eternal life in us through "**Christ in you**, the hope of glory," that means the Christ in us cannot die. Even if our natural life is snuffed out here in time, we will be in the eternal resurrection of the "**dead in Christ**," and we shall live forever in the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

**10 "Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. 11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them."**

We find in Psalms some things we do not see in Exodus: ***Ps 77:14-20; 14 "Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people. 15 Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah. 16 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. 17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. 19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. 20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.***"

As we consider both texts, we understand: Israel witnessed the events we see spoken of in Psalms. They saw the great thunderstorm that God created to rain his vengeance upon the Egyptians. They heard the voice of God thundering. They saw the breath of God blow upon the sea and cause it to return to its strength drowning the Egyptians. They saw the earthquake swallow some of the Egyptians.

They also recognized that they, Israel, were a redeemed people, which is the same for us. When we are born again and become children of God, we recognize that Christ has redeemed us. We recognize that the finished work of Christ on the cross has wrought that great salvation of God that we are experiencing in life. We also recognize that Christ Jesus is our great Shepherd, and we are the sheep.

**13 "Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."**

Who were the people led forth? The redeemed of the Lord. Who are the occupants of the true church of Christ? The redeemed of the Lord. Why were they and we led forth? The mercy of God and Christ.

**"thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."** Scripture teaches us that all of God's redeemed shall come to Jesus Christ, seen in: ***Joh 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*** In the new birth, every child of God is brought into "***thy holy habitation***," the church of Jesus Christ. Why? Because they are redeemed by the finished work of Jesus Christ.

**14 "The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. 15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. 16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased. 17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. 18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever."**

We see here a prophetic picture of the children of Israel on their journey to the land of promise, and the crossing the Jordan river into the land of promise. We know, the news of what great things God wrought in Egypt, and in the crossing of the Red Sea, will proceed Israel in their journey through the wilderness, and will even go into the land of promise before them. The same fear and dread of God here prophesied of will indeed be manifested as described.

Notice, Israel recognizes that they are a purchased people, and we should recognize the same thing. Israel is singing of their entrance into the land of promise in the past tense. We, the chosen children of God in this age of salvation by grace, get a glimpse of the great salvation of God when we are born again, and see the eternal promise of a place that Christ has gone to prepare for us, and of this we sing in glorious hope.

**"Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established."** Every child of grace, when born again, is a part of the church of Salvation by Grace, established by Jesus Christ here in time. We see in "***and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance***," the picture of the church. As Mount Zion, the mountain where the temple of God was built in Jerusalem for all of Israel to come to and worship God, so is the church the place for all the born-again children of God to be planted and worship God and Christ.

As Israel understood that God was forever, so, we also recognize; the Lord doth reign now and in eternity. Christ is King forevermore. All of creation belongs to God to do with as he pleases. Likewise, all the new creation, where God's chosen people will live forever, belongs to God, prepared for us by Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen!

**19 "For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea. 20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. 21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."**

"*For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea,*" Many have debated if Pharaoh was destroyed, or if he remained on the seashore and did not die. This verse makes it plain that Pharaoh went in with his army, "**For the horse of Pharaoh went in.**" If Pharaoh's horse went in, then Pharaoh went in upon his horse, and God destroyed both Pharaoh and his army in the sea.

**"but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea."** This seems to indicate: the destruction of Pharaoh and his army was completed before Israel was completely through the sea. Thus, Israel continued to the other side of the sea on dry ground, just as they had started out.

A glorious picture for us to see in our salvation in time. With the new birth of a Child of God, we enter into the sea on dry ground, but we enter with the fear of the Pharaoh and his armies in pursuit of us. However, when we come to fully understand the doctrine of salvation by grace, and that we have been given eternal life, we see Pharaoh and his armies drowned in the sea. Now, we can continue our journey through the sea of life in time knowing that Jesus has eternally secured us by his finished work. We no longer have to fear the Egyptians, in the eternal perspective. This is why Miriam, and the women are singing and dancing. This is why we should be singing, dancing, praising, worshipping, and adoring, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Miriam, and the women singing and dancing, is a prophetic picture of the New Testament church bodies, where the song of salvation by grace is sung, in singing worship services, and through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Where the congregations gather and sing praise to God in worship of his holy and matchless name. Where we sing of the victory of Jesus being manifested in our lives, and our expectation of entrance into the eternal land of promise.

**22 ¶ "So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,"**

"*So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea,*" This is further affirmation that Pharaoh and the Egyptians were destroyed before Israel had gone completely through the sea. How? Moses brought them out of the sea singing and dancing after the destruction of the Egyptians. Thus, we see again the picture of why God's people are to be joyful in the Lord, as the psalmist often spoke of, seen here in:

- ***Ps 35:9 "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation."***
- ***Isa 49:13 ¶ "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted."***
- ***Isa 61:10 ¶ "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."***

It is interesting that the first trial that Israel faces, after their deliverance from Egypt, is that of thirst. What is the first thing that a newly born baby and the child of God experiences? Thirst for drink. A newborn baby will seek the breast for mother's milk first off. The newborn child of God will experience the need to drink from the fountain of the water of life. This is why they come to the organized church. They desire to drink of the sincere milk of the word of life, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ being born on the earth and suffering in the sea of life, hanging on the tree for an acceptable sin sacrifice, is a picture of the bitter waters of Marah, of which we cannot drink. What Christ accomplished we could not do. It took the sacrifice of Christ on the tree of the cross, in the sea of life, to bring the sweetness to the gospel waters, the message of salvation by grace. Christ completed the work the Father gave him. Jesus has purchased unto himself the salvation of all those the Father gave him. Our Eternal salvation is fixed, and the purchase price paid by Christ. Our bitterness of toil here is only that which is connected to our time salvation, our life as a Christian. There will be no bitter waters in the place which Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

Notice that Moses, as mediator, prayed to God for the deliverance of the people, which is emblematic of Christ who has prayed to God the Father on our behalf.

Do not forget that people need water to sustain life, and it is the same for us today. We, as born-again Christians, must thirst for, and drink from, the fountain of the living water, the Gospel of Christ, or we shall shrivel up and die. We have further evidence of this in:

- ***Joh 4:10 "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewst the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."***
- ***Joh 6:53-55; 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed."***
- ***Joh 7:37 "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."***

Now, can you see: As God had to reveal the tree to Moses, so Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of the sacrificial law? When Christ died on the cross; the veil of the temple was rent in twain. The veil now being removed for God's born-again creatures; enables them to see the Tree of Life. It empowers us to drink from the fountain of living waters, our sustenance of life, which is Christ Jesus.

Did you notice? They have only gone three days since the great deliverance from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. How quickly we forget the great deliverances of God in our lives when we are faced with the tribulations of life. Remember, I told you when I was born again it was like floating for about three days? Well, after that the walls came tumbling down as Satan buffeted me with all these thoughts of my former sins and how unworthy I was to even think I could be a Child of God. Praise God, he soon brought me relief and has continued to supply my every need. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for salvation by the grace of God.

**25 there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them," 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. 27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters."**

Just as Moses commanded Israel to be obedient to the commandments of God, to retain protection from God's judicial wrath: so, we, the children of God, are to be obedient to the commandments of God, by which we may escape the consequence for disobedience here in time. Just as God told Israel: if you are not obedient, I will plague you with the same plagues I exercised upon the Egyptians, from whom I have freed you: likewise, we can expect to be plagued, here in time, if we continue in sinfulness against God, after being born-again. Understand, with willful sin there is a consequence to be borne here in time.

However, God's word tells us plainly that we shall suffer trials and tribulations in Christian living. These may be, or may not be, because of our sinfulness. Sometimes God allows us to suffer to strengthen our faith and trust in Christ Jesus and his finished work of salvation by grace. However, God will always cause us to suffer under the consequence of sin in our lives.

**"Twelve wells of water"** One for each individual tribe of Israel. One commentator suggested; the "**three score and ten palm trees**" were a tree for each of the seventy elders of Israel. We see in these two things: the sustenance of the water of life from Jesus Christ, enough for all of God's chosen children, and shade from the trees under which we may recline and find rest. Rest from what? From trying to save ourselves eternally because, that work is already accomplished in Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord Jesus, Hallelujah! Amen!