

The Sanctuary, O Lord, Which Thy Hands Have Established

We sing this hymn to the tune of Dublin found in the Good Old Songs Hymnal by Cayce

Lloyd Hymnal, Hymn #15 C. M.

A dark though gracious providence.

- 1 THY way, O God, is in the sea,
Thy paths I cannot trace,
Nor comprehend the mystery
Of thy unbounded grace.
- 2 As through a glass, I dimly see
The wonders of thy love,
How little do I know of thee,
Or of the joys above.
- 3 'Tis but in part I know thy will,
I bless thee for the sight;
When will thy love the rest reveal,
In glory's clearer light?
- 4 With raptures shall I then survey
Thy providence and grace,
And spend an everlasting day
In wonder, love, and praise.

We preached a sermon The First And Last Song from verses 01-02, which centered upon the theme of Salvation by grace has always been the song of the church, both the Old and New Testament Churches. We preached a sermon The LORD Is A Man Of War from verses 03-08, which centered upon the theme that Jesus is our Man of War. Now we undertake to preach beginning at verses 09-18, with the theme centered upon The Sanctuary, O Lord, Which Thy Hands Have Established.

To set the scene, Israel is being carried through the Red Sea in the pathway that God provided. God has already destroyed Pharoah and his armies, Israel is still in the sea and on their upward journey out of the sea to the land beyond, and eventually to the land of promise. Now the song turns our thoughts to what led the enemy to pursue Israel and how God has divinely protected Israel.

Ex 15:9 "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 lust of power and control caused the Egyptians to pursue Israel, in their pathway of salvation which was provided for them by God: Satan and his minions are pursuing every child of God in their Christian walk in the sea of life. 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, the New Testament church. Remember, the serpent was successful in his attempt upon the very first man Adam.

However, just as God, through Christ, delivered Israel from Pharoah and his armies, Jesus Christ has saved us from Satan and his armies. As we journey, on our pilgrimage through the sea of life, and we see our enemy pursuing us in our pathway of salvation provided by Christ Jesus, we need only remember who our Saviour is, and we can begin to sing the song of deliverance.

Ex 15:10 "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 our pilgrimage through the sea of life. We recognize that our enemy, the devil, and his minions, is as helpless to destroy our eternal life and salvation as Pharaoh and his army were helpless to destroy Israel in the pathway of salvation.

Ex 15:13 "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? To bring glory to the name 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 of the mercy of the Lord.

Ex 15:14 "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. Rahab the harlot described this very scene to the spies that Joshua sent into the land of promise, seen in: **Jos 2:9-11; 9 "And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."**

As we travel through the sea of life on our Christian pilgrimage, we should recognize our enemies have the fear and dread of God upon themselves. How can we be assured of this? Look at the scripture in: **Jas 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."** We must also remember that this is when we are walking in spirit and truth. If we wander off in our own lust, our enemies are strengthened, and they do not fear as they ought.

"**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 this in the phrase "**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 "**in Christ**," the Sanctuary, and worship God and Christ.

"**in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.**" For Israel here in time, the Sanctuary will be in Jerusalem in the land of promise. For us today in time, the Church of Salvation by Grace is the Sanctuary, which the hands of the Lord have established. However, for both Jew and Gentile, The Sanctuary, which our Lord, Jesus Christ, has established is in the eternal heaven. We get a glimpse of it in: **Re 21:1-5; 1 ¶ "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."** We rejoice that there will be a new creation, which will have no satanic influences. It will be a place without sin or corruption. It will be where God's chosen people, those redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ, will live forever.

Jesus Christ is "**The Sanctuary**" that the hands of God established. Remember, God the Father prepared a body for God the Son to come to earth and inhabit, which is now glorified and resurrected. We know this because Sanctuary is capitalized as the name of a person, and we are all "**in Christ**," seen in: **2Co 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."** This truth of being "**in Christ**" is further solidified in: **1Th 4:16-17; 16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."** Children of God, we proclaim to you that when Christ shall come the second time, we shall all be "**new creatures in Christ**" and Jesus Christ shall bring us all in, as stated in: **Ex 15:17 "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."** Hallelujah! Amen!