

The Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb

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[0 : 00] We love traditions in our family, especially at this time of year. I'm sure that if I asked we could list many traditions that all of us have around Christmas.

! We didn't have many New Year's traditions though until very recently.! And it's not always necessarily New Year's Eve that we do this, but around the New Year, we will scroll back through photos and videos that Casey has taken on her phone through the year. We'll project them onto the TV and we'll go through all of those photos. It takes us forever because Casey is very, very thorough in documenting our family life. We could use my phone, although the quality is terrible, and I don't take nearly as many photos. Most of the photos that I take are of things that I send to Casey when she asked me to pick something up from the store for her, accompanied by that famous question, is this what you want? To which men, we often know the answer is no. And then a phone call proceeds. So my photos won't do. It wouldn't be quite as special to scroll through photos of baking ingredients, various brands and boxes of Christmas lights for the tree from Menards, and truly random screenshots of the weather forecast.

[1 : 24] Why those were ever sent, I don't know. So we use Casey's phone because she actually captures pictures of life in our family. So it might take a while, but it's worth it to scroll through those photos, because every year we're reminded of what happened through the year, many things that we had forgotten.

Now, of course, we remember the big events, milestones perhaps in our family, but there are many smaller moments in the year that we've forgotten and that we're glad to be reminded of. There's also moments that it's good for us to be reminded of, though they may have been sorrowful, hard moments as well. So there's joy. There's sadness. There's opportunities to reflect on wonderful gifts that God has given us as a family. And there's trials that we remember that he's brought into our lives and that he's shepherded us through for our good as well. And every picture that we scroll through, it's a visual reminder of God's faithfulness to us in this past year.

So it's a good exercise for us to do. So often Casey and I will talk about how the days just fly by. I'm sure you can relate to that. And we quickly forget just all that God has brought into our lives and just all that God has brought us through for our good.

[2 : 45] So we look back and we remember. Well, the people of God did this in history. We have many instances recorded in God's word of God's people looking back and remembering, remembering God's faithfulness, remembering his provision, remembering his salvation.

So we're going to look at one example this morning. And may that example serve to motivate us to look back and to remember. So you can open with me in your Bibles to Exodus chapter 15. Exodus 15. We're going to look at what has come to be known as the Song of Moses. For many of us, that's the uninspired heading that we have right here in our Bibles, the Song of Moses. And it's a song that Moses, along with all of the people of Israel, sang. And if you continued reading in the text, you would see they also danced as they sang this song. We won't be singing or dancing. I have no tune to bring this morning. But we will read it. Now, this song appears at a very important moment in the book of Exodus.

[3 : 59] God has just delivered Israel out of slavery in Egypt. The Israelites originally had found themselves in Egypt as a result of a great famine in the land. God had brought them to Egypt to bring about good that they might not perish in the famine.

But after that earlier generation had died, after the pharaoh who welcomed them into Egypt died, well, a new pharaoh rose up who was not favorable towards the people.

And he enslaved them out of fear. Here the people had been fruitful and multiplied. And the pharaoh feared they might seek to overthrow the land of Egypt.

So in Exodus 2, we're given a short summary. And this summary says, During those many days, the king of Egypt died. And the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help.

Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning. And God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel. [5 : 03] And God knew. Now when the scriptures say, And God knew. It doesn't mean that God just understood the facts of the situation.

Like he did calculations and figured out the details and pieced together what was happening. Of course, he knew all of the facts. But his knowing is far more than that. When God knew, it means that God pitied.

It means that God had compassion. It means that God was going to act on behalf of his people. It means that God is for his people. Because God remembered.

He remembered his covenant with Abraham. The covenant he made in which he promised to bring them into the land of Canaan. So here we are in Exodus. And God is fulfilling his promise.

By first delivering from Egypt, he must bring them out of Egypt to then bring them to the promised land. And now this event, the Exodus from Egypt. This is where we are.

[6 : 03] And especially the parting of the Red Sea. This becomes the single most defining moment in Old Testament Israel's history. Time and time again, the people of Israel, they will look back on their history and say, Remember when God delivered us from Egypt.

Remember that great salvation. So this song in Exodus 15, it's not just any song. It's a definitive song. Because it follows on the heels of this definitive moment.

So I hope that we'll see this morning if it's important for Israel. It's also important for us. The God who saved Israel here in Exodus 15 is also the God who has saved us.

The God who is faithful to Israel here in Exodus 15 is the God who is faithful to us. So let's hear this song this morning. And let's begin by reading the first three verses.

Verse 1. Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

[7 : 11] 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 is God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a man of war. The Lord is his name. So these first three verses here really capture the heart of this song. They tell us who God is.

They tell us what God has done. And they tell us how we as his people ought to respond. So here we have this succinct summary. Here we see the Lord.

Who is he? He is the God who delivers his people. He is the God who has triumphed, and he's triumphed in a most glorious way. He has thrown the horse and his rider into the sea.

That's a phrase that we see repeated in Scripture. The horse and his rider. It's almost always used in context of judgment. Psalm 76, 6 says, At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both horse and rider lay stunned.

[8 : 16] In Jeremiah 51, God tells of the coming destruction of Babylon, something that we've seen repeatedly in Habakkuk. And God says this concerning the kings of the Medes.

With you, I break in pieces the horse and his rider. And then perhaps the most significant reference to the horse and rider we find in Revelation 19.

That chapter which so vividly describes the coming judgment of the Lord Jesus when he returns. He will utterly defeat his every enemy. And in expectation of that defeat, Revelation 19 says this, beginning in verse 17.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. And with a loud voice, he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead. Come, gather for the great supper of God to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.

So that last day of great judgment, it's drawing on the language that's used here. In this day of great judgment, when God brought the waters of the Red Sea down on the Egyptian army.

[9 : 29] But of course, it's not just the judgment of God's enemies that we see here in Exodus 15. It's also the salvation of God's people. They cry out, He has become my salvation.

We see these two realities going hand in hand in God's word. Salvation and judgment. In fact, you could say salvation through judgment.

This is something that we can't miss. Consider our own salvation. It came through judgment. The judgment of God fell on His beloved Son as He hung on the cross.

Jesus took the judgment that we deserved. We are not saved from our sins without judgment. We are saved indeed through the judgment of our Savior.

Salvation came to us through the judgment that fell upon Christ. So it is, even here in Exodus 15. God's people saved through judgment.

[10:29] Now, we need to consider what is the proper response to this salvation. Well, it's this song of praise. As we see Moses and the people of Israel singing.

And note the humility that accompanies this song and their worship. They know and they gladly proclaim, The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Egyptian army was crushed. And the people of Israel are taking no credit for that. They're not saying in our strength. No, they're saying by God's strength. The Israelites didn't triumph gloriously. Their God did. So they sing, this is my God. Oh, what a joy it is for them to say, My God. My God who has saved me. And I will praise him. My Father's God.

And I will exalt him. And the Israelites are communicating, What you have done in saving us. It leaves us in awe and in wonder. And it joyfully moves us to worship.

[11:29] And so the Israelites, they break out into singing and even dancing because it is God who has delivered them. Because it is God who has saved them. Indeed, it is the Lord who is a man of war.

The Lord is his name. But it's not just the what of the matter that leaves them in awe. It's not just the fact that God has defeated their enemies, as astounding as that is, but it is truly the manner in which God did this that leaves them in awe.

And we see that spelled out in verses 4 to 10. Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them. They went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrow your adversaries. You send out your fury. It consumes them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils, the waters piled up.

[12:34] The floods stood up in a heap. The deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, I will pursue. I will overtake. I will divide the spoil. My desire shall have its fill of them.

I will draw my sword. My hand shall destroy them. You blew with your wind. The sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

What detail is given to this description of God defeating his enemies? And how God saved Israel from Egypt. It leaves these Israelites speechless.

They're in wonder. Look back at the last verse of chapter 14. And we read there, Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians.

So the people feared the Lord. And they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. So what is it that the people saw? They saw God's great power.

[13:32] It was put on display for them there at the shore of the Red Sea. So this was a supernatural event. It couldn't be explained as anything else than God himself exercising his great power.

It was truly an awe-inspiring moment as the Israelites marveled at what God had done. Now throughout the years, Hollywood has tried to make movies that retell the story of the Exodus. But instead of putting God and his power on display, these movies simply put on display sinful man's interpretation and perspective of God's or of this moment. At worst, they seek to remove God entirely.

At best, they just minimize the role that God plays. They seek to shift the focus that we see here in Exodus 15 from God and his power to try to have more explainable causes.

Many movies that have come through seeking to do this. There was one that I read a quote that was speaking of the director. And this quote said that he wanted to convey the sense that everything could be natural phenomenon, like an eclipse or tsunami, not just someone waving a stick at the sea.

[14:53] Now that way of thinking is to be expected. But how tragic it is? We've missed the point if that's what we think. Of course, the act of waving a stick at the sea is itself not very impressive, but that's kind of the point.

God commanded Moses to lift up his staff because it really goes to show that all of this is of God. Moses did something very simple, very easy, very unimpressive.

You and I, we could lift up a staff. God did what only God can do. It can't be explained away by natural phenomena. Though, of course, any natural phenomena comes at the hand of God himself. But the parting of the Red Sea can't be explained as, well, this just happened to happen when the Israelites arrived at the Red Sea. It can't be explained as the result of an eclipse or a tsunami or a comet hitting the water.

No, this was God at work for his people intervening in this very direct, clear, miraculous way. Lift up your stick. If you and I lifted up a stick today at the Red Sea, nothing would happen.

[16:04] Not to be surprised by that. But Moses lifted it God's direction and the sea parted. Who else could do that but God? And what did he do when the waters that were parted came crashing back down?

He shattered the enemy. He overthrew his adversaries. His fury consumed them like stubble. God didn't do this quietly. He didn't do this in kind of this subtle way.

He did it in glorious power. He did it in majestic greatness. He didn't shatter the enemy or overthrow his adversaries by just causing them to disappear.

Suddenly, to just fall over dead as though somehow they died of fright. No, he brought an entire body of water down upon them.

So God saved this helpless, hopeless people from the greatest military power. In one awe-inspiring moment, God saw the people of Israel and God knew.

[17:06] He didn't sit by idly. He acted in human history to redeem his people according to his perfect, eternal plan. Think about what it would have been like to have been an Israelite in that moment.

They were a pretty ragtag bunch. They had no weapons. They had no armor. They had literally just been slaves in Egypt who had now been set free. They would have stood no chance against the Egyptians' might in battle.

This story really puts all other underdog stories to shame. But in reality, this isn't really an underdog story. Because it's really not a story that pits the Egyptians against the Israelites.

Though, again, Hollywood would like to portray it that way. I believe there's at least one movie where the Israelites actually fight against the Egyptians. Well, that makes for an interesting battle scene. But again, belittles the glory and power of God.

It's not like Moses said to the Israelites, All right, friends, grab your buckets and head to the shore. We're going to drown those Egyptians one by one. No, in reality, the Israelites didn't do anything.

[18:21] They couldn't do anything. And we see this very clearly back in Exodus chapter 14, starting in verse 10. When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes.

And behold, the Egyptians were marching after them. And they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?

What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt?

Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians. For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.

And Moses said to the people, Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. It was the Lord who threw the horse and rider into the sea. What makes this song of Moses so powerful is how it paints this picture of the disparity between God and man.

[19:37] My young sons, they'll play with toys in the bathtub. And they'll create all kinds of waves that come crashing down so often outside of the bathtub. As they're playing with their submarines and their boats and their little toys.

And I can't help but think, like, this song kind of sounds like a picture of my boys playing with toys in the bathtub. But it's not that at all. This song is not describing little boys making water to come crashing down in the bathtub.

No, this song describes God making the waves of the Red Sea to come crashing down upon the Egyptians. At the blast of his nostrils, the waters piled up. With the breath of his wind, the sea covered them. God blew, and his enemies sank like lead. The earth swallowed them up. The Egyptians thought they were something. They looked at their might. They looked at their numbers. And they thought, easy win. We'll overtake them. We'll loot them of the things they took from us. And we'll kill them. [20 : 47] But then it was the Egyptians who sank like lead. So this first part of the song is really important. The people of Israel, they are rehearsing their history.

A very recent history. A history they just saw with their own eyes. They're remembering the past works of God in their lives. But this isn't just something that they did once. Just here in Exodus 15. No, they rehearsed God's faithfulness, God's deliverance, over and over again in Scripture. Read Joshua 24.

Read Nehemiah 9. Read Psalm 77. Psalm 78. Psalm 105. In all of these passages, Israel remembers what God has done for them.

This is a pattern that we should follow in our lives as well as God's people. Do we regularly remember what God has done for us? He saved us by His glorious deeds.

[21 : 44] He's shown Himself to be faithful to us. To be gracious to us. To be merciful and compassionate to us. Just as He was to His people in the Old Testament.

The Bible repeatedly points back to the Exodus. Celebrated here in Moses' song. And says, remember that wonder-working, marvelous, mighty God.

Remember the one who parted the Red Sea with the blast of His nostrils? Remember the one who made the waters to cover the Egyptians? And they sank like stones under the weight of the sea? That's our God. He is still God. And He's still at work for the good of His people. And we've experienced that in our lives. God has delivered us who are in Christ as He delivered Israel. Only our deliverance is not from any physical nation or army. It's a far better deliverance from sin and death. The consequences for our sin.

[22 : 46] God's righteous wrath against us. Israel was delivered from Egypt. Delivered from captivity to human powers. But we've been delivered from a far greater captivity.

Delivered from sin and death. The tyranny of Satan. And we've been delivered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Israel was delivered from physical nations.

Since we've been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of light. So do we regularly remember our own salvation? Do we often think on and rehearse God's redemptive work in our lives?

Do we break out into song? Maybe even dance as we consider God's salvation? And like Israel, do we look back and do we say, remember what God has done for us?

And of course, we can broaden the scope beyond even our salvation. We can remember all of God's wonder-working, miraculous deeds in our lives.

[23 : 52] How has He demonstrated His faithfulness to you? How has He provided for you? How has He shown His loving kindness to you? And then let's make a habit of rehearsing what He has done for us.

And as we do that, our hearts will be made to sing. We'll be moved to worship just as the Israelites were. Look, as they were moved to worship the one true God. Verses 11 and 12 say, Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand. The earth swallowed them.

Now the Israelites said, Look at our God. Look at what you have done. Look at how you've defeated the Egyptians so mightily. Who is like you? And the answer to that rhetorical question always in Scripture is, No one.

There is no one like our God. There is no one to compare to Him. All of the signs and the wonders done by the magicians of Egypt, Oh, they pale in comparison to seeing the waters of the Red Sea piled up against that invisible glass wall.

[25 : 07] All of this, God showing forth His might in defeating the people of Egypt. And then this mighty act of salvation stirred the Israelites to that wonderstruck worship.

Who is like you, God? Who can leave us in awe like you? All of this worship for what God has done. We see it here in the Song of Moses.

But that's not all that we see in the Song of Moses. There's something else. We've seen the Israelites looking back, remembering the past. But it's not just His past victory over the Egyptians that the Israelites sung of.

They also turn and they look to the future. And they also sing of His future victory over their enemies and His promise to bring them safely home.

They're saying, Okay, God, You've saved us from Egypt just as You promised. We rejoice in that. And now we look and we say, And we know that You will save us from our future enemies and deliver us to our homeland just as You promised as well.

[26 : 10] And so they rejoice also in that. From looking back to now looking forward. And we see this beginning in verse 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. The peoples have heard. They tremble.

Pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed. Trembling seizes the leaders of Moab. All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

Terror and dread fall upon them. Because of the greatness of Your arm, they are still as a stone. Till Your people, O Lord, pass by. Till the people pass by whom You have purchased.

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.

[27 : 12] The Lord will reign forever and ever. So the Israelites were confident that God would work on their behalf, not just in the past as He had, but now looking to the future.

He who delivered their enemies at the Red Sea would strike fear in their enemies who awaited them on their journey to the promised land. They've heard about You, Lord.

They've heard what You did to the Egyptians. They've heard of Your great might, and they're trembling. Immediately after the exodus from Egypt, while the mud from the seafloor still clung to their sandals, the Israelites trusted God, and they rejoiced that the One who had redeemed them now led them forward in His steadfast love.

And because of His awesome display of power at the Red Sea, here the nations surrounding Canaan would be seized with terror until His people passed by, the people that He had purchased. This is the God of Israel's song. This is the God that the people of Israel were in awe of. This is the God that had them in their hearts singing and dancing, saying, Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?

[28 : 24] So as we come into this new year, let's look to the past, let's look back, and let's look forward.

And let's remember all that God has done for us, and let's remember all that God has promised for us as well in His Word. Let's look back and let's see God's saving work and His faithfulness in our lives, and then let's look forward and let's trust that He will guide and He will sustain us to the very end.

And just as He says in Isaiah 46, beginning in verse 3, Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been born by me from before your birth, carried from the womb, even to your old age I am He, and to the gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear, I will carry, and I will save. So you might think at this point in the lesson, as we're drawing to a close, that the final exhortation might be something like this.

Let's sing the song of Moses. May the song of Moses be our song. That's maybe what you'd think the final punch would be. I mean, we just spent all of this time unpacking that song here in Exodus 15, so shouldn't we sing it?

[29 : 52] The answer is yes, but there's another song also. If the song of Moses was originally released in the Old Testament as a single, well, in the New Testament, God gives us a two-track EP because there's another song that we should sing along with the song of Moses.

Now, these two songs, they're actually being sung right now, not on the shores of the Red Sea, but in the heavenly throne room of God. And this second song that is being sung is not being sung to remember God's defeat of the Egyptian army.

It's being sung to remember God's defeat of sin and death and the great hope that awaits God's people in the new heavens and the new earth. So we see this new song, not in Exodus 15, but a very easy-to-remember passage, Revelation 15.

So turn over there with me from Exodus 15 to Revelation 15, where we're going to see again the song of Moses, but another song as well.

And I'll begin reading in verse 1.

[31 : 17] Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire, and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

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. Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

So you see the second song here in Revelation 15, and it's an even better song, because it's the song not just of Moses, the servant of God, and it's the song of the Lamb.

And I think this song shows up even earlier in Revelation, not just here in chapter 15, but in chapter 5. We were just there last Sunday evening, and who did we see in Revelation 5?

[32 : 35] We saw the Lamb standing as though it had been slain. The one who was worthy to open God's scroll and to bring to pass all of God's redemptive plans.

And what was the response in heaven to this revealing of the Lamb? Revelation 5 verse 9 says, and they sang a new song. They sang a new song saying, worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

And you have made them a kingdom, and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth. I don't know if you recall how the song of Moses finished in Exodus 15, but it spoke of God reigning forever and ever.

And now here, God's people reigning with God on the earth. So this is the song that we now join in singing. The song to honor the Lamb who was slain for us.

The Lamb who ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And he ransomed us by his blood. We sing the song of him in the greatest act of deliverance in history.

[33 : 56] The act of deliverance that the Exodus simply pointed forward to. And so one day we'll sing just as the Israelites sang at the Red Sea, but we won't be there on those shores.

We'll be before another sea. We'll stand before the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb, worshiping him for all of eternity. So as we enter into this new year, 2026, looking back, let's also look forward and let's eagerly anticipate all that God will do just as he promised in his word.

So let's sing the song of Moses saying, the Lord is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation. And let's sing the song of the Lamb saying, you have made a kingdom, us a kingdom and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth.

Let's sing because indeed who is like the Lord? Who will not fear him and glorify his name for he alone is holy?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, indeed you alone are worthy, worthy of all worship. You are worthy to be glorified.

[35 : 14] Father, help us that we might fear you, that we might serve you, that we might love you, that we might live lives that exalt you in this world. For you alone are holy.

Father, we thank you that you've given us the song of Moses. We thank you that you've given us the song of the Lamb. Help us this year that we might reflect back on your goodness and your faithfulness to us, how you've shepherded us in this last year.

And then, Father, help us that we might look forward and see that you still guide us, you still lead us, that your right hand upholds us. So help us that our souls might cling to you.

We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.