

A Song of Joy

Now we have something new in the book of Exodus – a song. ‘*Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song...*’¹. There were no songs of joy when the people were in Egypt. But when the people become utterly and totally convinced that the enemy is defeated and they are released forever, then their faith is confirmed² and they soon start singing!

• *Music and poetry help us express the depth of our feelings*

Men and women are more than pure intellect. They have feelings and warmth and affections. Men and women are not simply machines. They do not act with pure logic. And somehow music and poetry affect us and help us express the depth of our feelings. When we see what a great thing God has done we want to express ourselves with exuberance! We want to sing!

• *A joyful celebration of God’s act of deliverance*

*‘I will sing unto Yahweh
for He is highly exalted;
the horse and its rider He had hurled into the sea¹.
Yahweh is my strength and song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him;
my father’s God and I will extol him².
Yahweh is a warrior;
Yahweh is his name³.
Pharaoh’s chariots and his army God has cast into the sea;
and the best of his officers are drowned in the Reed Sea⁴.
The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone⁵.
Your right hand, O Yahweh,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, O Yahweh, shattered the enemy⁶.
In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like
stubble⁷.
By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood firm like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea⁸.
The enemy boasted,
‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them⁹.
But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters¹⁰.
Who among the gods is like you O God?
Who is like you -
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?’¹¹
You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed
them¹².*

15:1

14:31

15:1

15:2

15:3

15:4

15:5

15:6

15:7

15:8

15:9

15:10

15:11

15:12

We sing about God, and everything He has done for us.

• *We sing about God*

*I will sing unto Yahweh... ^{15:1}
Yahweh is my strength and song... ^{15:2}.
Yahweh is a warrior;
Yahweh is his name... ^{15:3}
Your right hand, O Yahweh, Your right hand, O Yahweh... ^{15:6}*

^{15:1}
^{15:2}
^{15:3}
^{15:6}

• *Exalted*

The song delights in the exaltedness of God

...for He is highly exalted;

• *Lifted high*

The singers are determined to lift God high.

*...I will praise him...
...I will extol him...*

• *Completely delivered*

They delight in the totality and completeness of what God has done.

*...the horse and its rider He had hurled into the sea.
...the best of his officers are drowned in the Reed Sea.
Your right hand, O Yahweh, shattered the enemy.
...you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.*

• *With ease*

and the ease with which He did it.

...you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

• *God their strength*

They speak of what God now means to them:

Yahweh is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God and I will extol him ^{15:2}.

^{15:2}

• *A warrior*

They look at the character of God. He is like a warrior.

Yahweh is a warrior... ^{15:3}

^{15:3}

• *Totally victorious*

He has engaged in a great battle for them. And He is totally victorious.

*Pharaoh's chariots and his army God has cast into the sea;
and the best of his officers are drowned in the Reed Sea ^{15:4}.
The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone ^{15:5}.*

^{15:4}
^{15:5}

• *Powerful*

They speak of God's great power.

*Your right hand, O Yahweh, was majestic in power.
Your right hand, O Yahweh, shattered the enemy ^{15:6}.*

^{15:6}

• *Majestic*

And they speak of God's kingship.

*In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble ^{15:7}.*

^{15:7}

• *Anger against sin*

And they speak of God's anger against sin.

*By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood firm like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea ^{15:8}.*

^{15:8}

They sing of the weakness of human pride.

• Destroyed weak human pride

The enemy boasted,
'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them¹.
But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters².

15:9

15:10

They sing of the uniqueness of God.

• Unique

Who among the gods is like you O God?
Who is like you –
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?¹
You stretched out your right hand
and the earth swallowed them².

15:11

15:12

• This is what God is like

This is what God is like. He comes to aid of His people. He seems to delay but then He acts with such great power. Eventually everything is dealt with. 'The horse and its rider' – everything! He acts dramatically. He hurls the enemy aside. He blasts the opposition into non-existence. He does this for His people. He becomes 'My God ... my father's God'. The singers delight in God. They want to meditate on every detail. Then our song moves from the recent past into the future.

A song king to the future with confidence

In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling¹.
The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia².
The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the rulers of
Canaan will melt away³;
terror and dread will fall upon them.
By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone –
until your people you bought pass by⁴.
You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance –
the place, O Yahweh, which you made for your dwelling, the
sanctuary, O Yahweh, your hands established. Yahweh will reign
for ever and ever⁵.

15:13

15:14

15:15

15:16

15:17

The people look into the future. If God has acted so wonderfully for them in the past they are confident He will act faithfully towards them for ever after.

They are confident of God's love.

• Of God's love

In your unfailing love...¹

15:13

They are confident of God's power.

• Of God's power

In your strength you will guide them...
By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone...

They are sure of God's leading.

• Of God's leading

...you will lead
...you will guide them...

They are happy to know that God has taken them as His people. They are

...the people you have redeemed.
...your people...

They are now confident that they will be taken to Mount Sinai.

• Of their next destination

...you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance –
the place, O Yahweh, which you made for your dwelling, the
sanctuary, O Yahweh, your hands established... ¹.

¹ 15:17

They end their song with their assurance of God's kingship.

A song about God's reign

Yahweh will reign for ever and ever.'

As the great defeat of Pharaoh is taking place¹, Miriam spontaneously begins to sing. She takes a tambourine and soon the ladies are dancing and singing.

¹ 15:19

• Bondage to liberty- a song in our mouth and dancing in our feet

'Sing to the Lord,
for He is highly exalted.
The horse and its rider
He has hurled into the sea¹.

¹ 15:21

A few months before the people had been groaning in distress. Now they are dancing with joy. The ladies have become a choir. When God takes us from bondage to liberty He puts words into our mouth and dancing in our feet.



Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



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