



Exodus 15:1-21

# SINGING PRAISE TO THE LORD!

*In Egyptian literature, poetry often occurs within historical prose narrative. Thus, Ramses' inscription [in the Kadesh Inscriptions, ~1274 BC] ... provides a prose narrative to give the setting for Ramses' heroic extraction of himself from surrounding Hittite forces. Having been deserted by his own soldiers in the critical hour of battle ... Ramses asserted, "I attacked all the countries, I alone." Following a prose heading, he told in poetic lines of his personal strength and valor in the face of combat. "Head on he charges a multitude, His heart trusting his strength; Stout-hearted in the hour of combat, Like the flame when it consumes. Firm-hearted like a bull ready for battle, He heeds not all the lands combined; A thousand men cannot withstand him, A hundred thousand fail at his sight." ... [In contrast] Moses' song is designed to underscore the Lord's role in the great victory over the Egyptians... Only God could overcome the enemy, and He did. Therefore, He was to be the One thanked, praised, and trusted.* —Richard D. Patterson

Exodus 15 is the first song of praise recorded in Scripture.

- A Sing to the Lord! (15:1-2)**
  - B The Lord Is the Divine Warrior (15:3-5)
  - C The Lord Has Defeated His Enemies (15:6-8)
  - D The Lord Has Delivered His People (15:9-10)
  - E Who Is Like the Lord? (15:11-12)**
  - D The Lord Will Deliver His People (15:13-14)
  - C The Lord Will Defeat His Enemies (15:15-16)
  - B The Lord Is the Divine King (15:17-19)
- A Sing to the Lord! (15:20-21)**

## 1. We are to praise the Lord with music and singing.

Music is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the image of God in us  
(cf. Genesis 2:23; Job 38:7; Zephaniah 3:17; Ephesians 5:18-19).

Music is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the goodness of God to us  
(cf. 2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Psalm 33:1-3; 96:1-2; 146:2; 150:1-6).

## 2. We are to praise the Lord individually.

*I will sing to the Lord! ... The Lord is my strength and my song;  
He has become my salvation! He is my God and I will praise Him!*

## 3. We are to praise the Lord corporately.

*Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord...*

*Some say this song of Moses is the oldest recorded song in the world.*

—Life Application Study Bible

*Moses never features in this song. This song is about God, its contents are about God, its context is about God, its focus is on God and its reason is founded in God. It is radically God-centered and its goal is the honor and glory of God.*

—J. Ligon Duncan III

**Sing.** Hebrew verb, *shir*, "to sing."  
Used 90x in OT. Used 1<sup>st</sup> in Ex. 15.

*Praise is the natural response from those who have experienced God's grace.* —Tony Merida

*The pulse of the believer should beat hallelujahs.* —Charles Spurgeon

*I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is the gift of God. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.* —Martin Luther

*Praising God is one of the highest acts of faith. In prayer we act like men; in praise we act like angels.*

—Thomas Watson (1620-86)

**4. We are to praise the Lord for Who He is.**

*Who is like You among the gods, O Lord?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in praises, working wonders?*

The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.

**5. We are to praise the Lord for what He has done.**

The Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ His enemies.

The Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

The Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ His mighty hand.

**6. We are to praise the Lord for what He will do.**

The Lord will lead His people to His dwelling place.

The Lord will conquer all enemies with His power.

The Lord will keep all of His promises to His people.

The Lord will reign forever and ever!

**7. We are to praise the Lord with joy and dancing!**

*Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand drum in her hand  
and all the women went out after her with hand drums and with dances.  
Miriam sang in response to them,*

*“Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously!  
The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!” (15:20-21)*

*Worship is the believer's response of all that he is—mind, emotions, will, and body—to all that God is, says, and does. —Warren Wiersbe*

*God's holiness is His inherent and absolute greatness, in which He is perfectly distinct above everything outside Himself and is absolutely morally separate from sin. It refers to His separateness, His otherness, the fact that He is unlike any other being. —John F. MacArthur, Jr.*

*YHWH is the eternal, independent, and self-existent Being; He who is absolute in dominion; infinitely perfect; eternally self-sufficient, needing nothing that he has made; illimitable in his immensity, inconceivable in his mode of existence, and indescribable in his essence.*

—Adam Clarke (1762-1832)

*Since Egypt's military was the best in the world of that day, they were the world's best troops, and their officers the best of the best.*

—Douglas Stuart

**Habitation.** Heb, *naveh*, “dwelling place; home; a place of rest, satisfaction, beauty, and security.”

**Timbrel.** Heb., *toph*, “small, hand-held frame drum, struck with the palm or fingers and often accompanied by rhythmic dance.”

*Keep up the freshness of worship. Let us not present old worn-out praise, but put life, soul, and heart, into every song, since we have new mercies every day, and see new beauties in the work and word of our Lord. —Charles Spurgeon*

*The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God, by which also God is magnified and exalted.*

—Jonathan Edwards (1703-58)