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| Introduction |
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1. Israel had just been delivered from the Pharaoh and his powerful army through probably the greatest miraculous events in the Bible aside from Creation and the resurrection of Jesus Christ
2. After witnessing Yahweh's awesome power in saving them and destroying the Egyptian army, Exodus 14:31 says Israel, "**feared Yahweh, and they believed in Yahweh and in His servant Moses.**"
3. What we see today is an expression of this as Moses and Israel praised and worshipped Yahweh through a new song
4. We can learn a number of things from this:
  - a. First, God loves to be praised and worshipped through song:
    - 1) Verse 1 states explicitly that this was a song and they sang it to Yahweh
    - 2) Verse 21 even tells us they did it with tambourines and dancing (READ)
    - 3) We know God loves to be praised and worshipped in song, not just because it's commanded throughout Scripture, but we have an entire book of the Old Testament devoted to songs,
    - 4) We also have plenty of examples of praising and worshipping God through song in the Bible:
      - a) In Judges 5 Deborah and Barak praised God in song after Israel defeated their enemies
      - b) In 2 Samuel 2 Hannah praised God in song after the birth of Samuel
      - c) In 2 Samuel 22 David sang a song to God after being delivered from his enemies
      - d) Jesus's mother Mary praised God through song in what's called the Magnificat in Luke 1
      - e) We even have the tribulation saints singing before the Lord in Revelation 15:3-4
  - b. Second, genuine praise and worship is a response to Who God is and what He's done:
    - 1) This is evident throughout the song, but is even stated explicitly in the summary statement in 15:19 (READ)
    - 2) Israel's praise and worship with this song were a direct response to what Yahweh had just done for them
    - 3) Our praise and worship should be no different—this is one of the reasons why here at Renew we place our music after the message; we want it to be a response to what we just learned
  - c. Third, our songs of praise and worship should be theologically informed:
    - 1) What I mean by this is that our songs should reflect Biblical truths about God, rather than empty repetition designed to evoke emotion

- 2) I am not saying that every song we sing needs to be a course in systematic theology, but unfortunately many modern praise and worship songs are theologically weak and even questionable; many are also more me-focused than God-focused
5. As we go through the song Moses and Israel sang to Yahweh, I want to highlight at least five things for which they praised Yahweh: His deliverance, His power, His uniqueness, His faithfulness, and His future promises

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| <p>A. Israel's praise and worship were a response to Yahweh's DELIVERANCE (READ 15:1-5)</p> |
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1. Their song begins with a reference to Yahweh being **"highly exalted"** for having defeated their enemy:
  - a. The word for **"exalted"** here comes from the root **"to rise up"**:
    - 1) It's repeated: **"to rise up He has risen up"** might be a more literal translation
    - 2) It's a reference to Yahweh rising up for the purpose of defeating His enemies so some translations capture this by translating it as **"for He has triumphed gloriously"**
  - b. The **"horse and it's rider"** that He **"hurled into the sea"** is obviously a reference to Pharaoh's army and we see this repeated in v. 4-5
2. They recognized that it was Yahweh who had delivered them, referring to Him as their "strength and song" and their "salvation" (15:2)
3. However, their most remarkable declaration is at the end of v. 2: **"This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him"**:
  - a. This is remarkable because when Yahweh first appeared to Moses at the burning bush, He introduced Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
  - b. Israel had apparently long forgotten the name Yahweh, the name their forefathers had known him by
  - c. While there were some who still knew and worship Him simply as "Elohim", most had apparently adopted the pagan gods of the Egyptians and worshipped them
  - d. Here's we see them recognize that Yahweh was not only the God of their fathers, but they now accepted Him and began to praise and extol His as THEIR OWN God just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
4. This newfound devotion, and their praise and worship, was a response to recognizing Yahweh's deliverance

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| <p>B. Israel's praise and worship were a response to Yahweh's POWER (READ 15:6-10)</p> |
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1. Israel had witnessed Yahweh's incredible and awesome power in not just the 10 plagues, but what He did at the Red Sea:

- a. They referred to His right hand as “**majestic in power**” which “**shatters the enemy**”
  - b. They saw Him overthrown Pharaoh’s army “**in the greatness of [His] excellence**” and His burning anger “**consumed them as chaff**”
  - c. They had witnessed “**the blast of [His] nostrils**” in the east wind that caused the waters to stand up like heaps and the depths of the sea “**congeal**” (solidify) so they could walk across on dry land
  - d. When Pharaoh’s army chased after and boasted that they would overtake Israel, divide the spoil, and destroy them, Yahweh “**blew with [His] wind**”, covered them with the sea, and they “**sank like lead in the mighty waters**”
2. Witnessing such an amazing display of Yahweh’s awesome power caused Israel to respond by praising and worshipping Him in song

C. Israel’s praise and worship were a response to Yahweh’s UNIQUENESS (READ 15:11-12)

1. This is obviously a rhetorical question and intended to be understood as there is no One like Yahweh among the gods:
  - a. This is a profound statement coming from Israel at this time
  - b. The entire ANE was polytheistic, and Israel had just spent the past 400 years in Egypt with its 1000s of pagan gods
  - c. The Bible tells us that when Israel was in Egypt they worshipped these gods:
    - 1) As Joshua led Israel in the conquest and into the land of Canaan, he called on them to put away the gods their fathers served in Egypt (Joshua 24:14): “**Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.**”
    - 2) Ezekiel wrote that Israel “**played the harlot in Egypt**” (Ezekiel 23:3)
    - 3) This is one of the reasons why Ten Commandments start with “You shall have no other gods before me” and a prohibition against making idols
2. What Israel witnessed through the plagues and the event at the Red Sea was there truly is no God like God:
  - a. We’ve repeated this many times but one of the reasons Yahweh gave for multiplying His signs and wonders in Egypt was to humiliate their gods and reveal that He was the One True God, Yahweh
  - b. Israel learned through the plagues and their deliverance at the Red Sea was Yahweh was unique:
    - 1) None of Egypt’s gods were “**majestic in holiness**” like He is
    - 2) None of Egypt’s gods were “**awesome in praises**”—there are various translations of this:
      - a) “**fearsome in praises**” (LSB)
      - b) “**awesome in glorious deeds**” (ESV)
      - c) “**awesome in glory**” (NIV)

- d) “**revered with praises**” (HCSB)
- e) The point appears to be that Yahweh is praised like no other god for his awesome or glorious acts

- 3) None of Egypt’s gods could “**work wonders**” as He did—a host of which they had seen Yahweh do through the Exodus

### 3. Witnessing Yahweh’s uniqueness led Israel to praise and worship Him

#### D. Israel’s praise and worship were a response to Yahweh’s FAITHFULNESS (READ 15:13)

- 1. Back in Genesis 15:16 God promised Abraham that after 400 years He would bring Abraham’s descendants back to the land of Canaan
- 2. Joseph’s last words to his brothers before he died were that God would make good on this promise and one day take them from Egypt back to Canaan; he even told them that when this happened, they were to take his bones with them (Genesis 50:24)
- 3. We saw Moses do just this in Exodus 13:19 when he led Israel out of Egypt and it was a fulfillment of Yahweh’s promise and a demonstration of His loyalty and faithfulness
- 4. It was because of Yahweh’s “**lovingkindness**” (e.g. covenant loyalty; faithfulness)—not Israel’s faithfulness or merit—that He “**redeemed**” Israel and led them by His “**strength**” out of Egypt toward the land of Canaan
- 5. This faithfulness was just one more reason for Israel to praise and worship Him

#### E. Israel’s praise and worship were a response to Yahweh’s FUTURE PROMISES (15:14-18)

- 1. These last five verses are interesting because they all appear to be related to future events, things that haven’t happened yet:
  - a. They sang about the inhabitants of Canaan like the Philistines, Edomites, and Moabites being seized with anguish, filled with dismay, and trembling in fear (14-15a)
  - b. The land of Canaan “**melting away**” because “**terror and dread**” have fallen upon them, and becoming like “**stone**” as Yahweh leads Israel to “**pass over them**” with the “**greatness of [his] arm**” (15b-16)
  - c. They sang about Yahweh bringing and planting them in the “**mountain of [His] inheritance**”, the place which He had made for Himself to “**inhabit**”, and “**the sanctuary which [His] hands have established**”
  - d. They even sang of a time when Yahweh would “**reign forever and ever.**”
  - e. These were all still future events, fulfilled partially when God established Israel as a nation under David and Solomon, but ultimately will be fulfilled in Christ’s Millennial Reign and for all eternity

2. As a result of all they had seen Yahweh do, Moses and Israel must have been confident in these future promises of God because they sang about them in praise and worship to Him

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| Takeaways |
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\*\*In the introduction I mentioned three things I believe we can learn about worship from this passage

1. First, God loves to be praised and worshipped through song
2. Second, our praise and worship songs should be a response to Who God is and what He's done
3. Third, our praise and worship songs should be theologically informed, reflecting Biblical truths about God

Psalm 92:1-5 is labeled, "A Psalm, a song for the Sabbath Day and starts like this: **"A Psalm, a Song for the Sabbath day. It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night, With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, With resounding music upon the lyre. For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands. How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep."**