

The Waters Were Made Sweet

Exodus Chapter Fifteen

~ Miracle amid pandemonium and deliverance amidst chaos was how our last Spiritual Safari report concluded as the Red Sea parted, the children of Israel went through it and the Egyptian army was destroyed as they pursued Israel to kill them. We stood right there on the shore and witnessed a miracle as God delivered them. Well, they're on the other side now and the waters have reverted back to their natural state. Many of the Israelites are standing around watching the sea to see if any Egyptian soldiers swim up to shore. Of course, none did! So, they break out in song; and it is a beautiful theme song, to be sure. Unfortunately, they will be right back to singing the desert blues before the end of this report.

I encourage you to read this song, but we won't be singing along in our safari. This song is to be considered along with Deborah and Balak in Judges - which we will do. David sang many, many songs. His life is a great big song! Even Jeremiah had a song amidst the wail and woe. There are certainly many songs in the Bible. Every believer should have a song in his heart. Even when we get to Revelation and take a sneak peek at the new Heaven and the new earth; when we see the people there, they're singing a new SONG! That will surely be the only time you want to hear me sing, I promise you. I don't join in much these days; it's better for me to just hum along here....

1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

~ And the Lord Jesus saith, "think not that I have come to bring peace, but the sword of division!" All of these people that speak so much of peace today might do well to review this song we're singing now! In Revelation chapter nineteen we see Christ return to put down all unrighteousness; and He's not playing patty cakes with the unsaved at that point, friends! At that time, He is treading them out in the winepress. Until that time, this earth will never have peace. God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ – He is a Man of War. The first time Christ brought division with the sword and the second time He is coming to bring peace with the sword! The sword is the way by which God will rid this earth of unrighteousness. We'll get into detail with all of that later, but for now let's move forward....

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy and redeemed us.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

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.

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.

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.

~ God is not demanding you to do something. After you are redeemed you will feel like singing a song! However, redemption must come first. The sin question will have to be settled in your heart with the Lord Jesus Christ before you'll sing a song unto Him! Then your song will be meaningful. The song doesn't help you to improve yourself, though. If you wash the car and vacuum the floor to put up a good front, God still isn't willing to be your good neighbor! God asks this world for nothing! This world is shut to a cross where the penalty for sins was paid. God is asking you what you will do with His Son Who died for you on that cross? Further, God is talking to them as if they are already in the land; and as far as He is concerned – they are – because He is going to take them there! ~

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.

19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea

upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

~ Well, we haven't seen Miriam for years and here she comes out singing the solo! It's good to know she is with us - but here we begin a pattern that we need to note. The next three chapters will highlight seven experiences the children of Israel had along the way from the Red Sea to Mount Sinai. These seven experiences correspond and correlate perfectly correctly to the Christian experience today. Remember, all of these happened unto them as examples unto us! God is giving you a spiritual education if you're willing to learn today. Out here in the wilderness of Shur the children of Israel are not laying around on a bed of roses. There is nothing in this wilderness for them at all and that is very important to recognize! The children of Israel have crossed the Red Sea and they have had a wonderful time of praise. This redeemed people have been singing along with Moses the praises of God. You would think that after the experience at the Red Sea they would be sailing the high seas of trust and praise - but not for long. Since they have been redeemed, we should think that they have been relieved of all problems and difficulties - but not so. Their weather should be fantastic year-round and there shouldn't be a cloud in the sky, right?

I feel this is legitimate for the children of Israel to complain a little bit. They had been in the land of Egypt with plenty of food and water when they were evicted in the middle of the night with nowhere to go. These people suddenly found themselves in quite different circumstances on the other side of the ocean. Out here there is no water available and the children of

Israel don't even know where they are at! The cisterns of Egypt are a thing of the past for them and they have not yet reached the fountains of Living Waters with us! This is the experience of every single redeemed child of God. After they are saved, they will find that the cisterns of Egypt are unsatisfactory and out of reasonable reach. There is always a period of soul thirst for the newly saved. It is the things we experience during that time which Paul spoke of when he said, "... the things I have gained I have counted as loss." Paul reveals his great thirst when he says, "... oh, that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection!" When we make the decision to follow Christ and leave the world behind it can become a very isolating experience. While your friends are all out having fun and you're trying to learn the Bible it can become very lonely, indeed. Of course, as the Lord calls you then you don't really want to run much with them anymore and that makes for some very bitter waters. Many people are looking for the Living Waters, but they don't know where to find them....

23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

~ So, the second experience Israel has in our Spiritual Safari on the wilderness march is a bitter experience. The waters were bitter when we got here; after three days this is where God led us. I wonder why? After worshiping and praising Him why would He lead them to bitter waters? These are redeemed people following God by the hand of His servant Moses. What they don't perceive is that God was marking out each and

every oasis for them! The bitter waters at Marah are a very normal and natural experience. They are very bitter; and it is a puzzling and perplexing experience. I don't know why God prepares and equips us in the ways that He does – I just know He does it this way - every time.

The Lord Jesus saith, “in this world you will have trouble” - and right along the pathway of every new believer there is a Marah to be traveled through. God has arranged our paths and our disappointments are Gods appointments. Every life is a tragedy waiting to happen. We all have our own Marah in life from which there is no detour. Only God can see you through and only God can provide the means to turn those bitter waters sweet. We are told a tree was put in the bitter waters and the waters were made sweet. That tree speaks of the cross of Christ. If you do not have Christ in your life, then you won't be moving on from Marah. In fact, you won't even know where you are at! Once the unbeliever reaches Marah their safari is over. The death of Christ on the cross can make the bitter experiences of life turn sweet – but only when we trust Him! We are a savor of death to them who perish. Must Jesus bear the cross alone? – No, there is a cross for you and there is a cross for me, too....

27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

~ So, we end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God by being led to twelve wells of cool water and some nice shade to sit under to rest and enjoy the water - right after our bitter experience. That brings relief. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Soon we will see Simon Peter locked in the inner prison; but an angel opens the door for him! God's plan of usefulness always leads directly through Marah – every – singe - time. I know this because it's right here in our map of redemption. Joseph, Moses, David, Elijah – all had the same experience. Behind every cloud there is the sun – shining. God didn't let the children of Israel stay in Marah very long, friends. He moved them along very quickly to a very nice place; and all of these things happened to them as examples unto us. I like that very, very much ~

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