

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC
Exodus 15

Intro: Musical instruments and music are mentioned in Gen. 4:21 and 31:27, but no special emphasis is given to music until Exodus 15. This is really the first psalm of Scripture.

After that it becomes increasingly important.

Moses concluded his ministry with the writing of another song which is found in Deut. 31. We have the Psalm of Deborah and Barak in Judges 5. In 2 Sam. 22 and Psa. 18 we have one of the great psalms of David.

Then we add to this the book of Psalms.

1 Kings 4:32 tells us that Solomon composed 1,005 songs.

We have in his book of the Bible The Song of Songs.

It would take a thorough study of all of the Psalms to tell us why the children of Israel sang, but these are the most prominent reasons:

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| 1) To express joy. | 11) To comfort. |
| 2) To worship God. | 12) To relieve tensions. |
| 3) To thank God. | |
| 4) To teach. | It is never for entertainment, |
| 5) To warn. | never to attract attention in |
| 6) To express grief. | its content, or in its execu- |
| 7) To remember God. | tion, to men -- in any way. |
| 8) To remember God's works. | |
| 9) To remember God's promises. | |
| 10) To witness. | |

It is one of the greatest of all subjects in Scripture, and yet very little attention is paid to what the Scriptures teach us about the place that music is to have in our lives.

In the NT it seems to be most prominent as an evidence of the Spirit-filled life.

Always there is great care given to the Psalms and songs that are sung -- the Spirit of God has taken a hand in their composition and use.

Bible teachers are generally agreed that the first time any subject is mentioned in the Bible you will usually have the foundation for that subject as it appears from that point on in the Word of God. Such, then, would be the case with Exodus 15.

Let us notice the outstanding details.

I. THE CAUSE OF THE SINGING.

See Exodus 14:30, 31, and connect ^{it} with the "then" in 15:1.

Since this stands as the great OT picture of our redemption (from Exodus 12 through 14), we see the point of David's words in Psalm 40:2, 3.

II. THE CONTENT OF THEIR SONG.

We can see a twofold division:

- 1) Vv. 1-13 deals with the immediate present -- what God had just done.
- 2) Vv. 14-18 deals with the future -- what God would do.

At no point are Moses and the children of Israel given any part of the credit for what has just happened -- all of the glory is given to GOD!

We can also see this division:

- 1) In vv. 1-10 we see the power of the Lord.
- 2) In v. 11, the holiness of the Lord.
- 3) In vv. 12, 13, the faithfulness of the Lord.
- 4) In vv. 14-18, the sufficiency of the Lord (as it relates to the future).

Or we see salvation in its three tenses:

- 1) What God had done.
- 2) What He was then doing.
- 3) What the people could depend upon Him to do.

We also see an emphasis upon:

- 1) WHO THE LORD IS -- vv. 2, 3, 11.
- 2) WHAT THE LORD CAN DO -- v. 1,
vv. 9, 10 -- to cite 2 examples.

Concl: What was all of this designed to do?

Let me give 3 answers:

- 1) To cause the people to recognize that the deliverance had come from God.
- 2) To give Him the praise and worship that such a victory deserved.
- 3) To strengthen the faith of the people for the future.

May our singing bring such glory to God and cause us to rejoice in a God who is always enough and who will never fail!