

"WHO IS LIKE UNTO THEE, O LORD?"

Ex. 15:11

Intro: This song marks the conclusion of a long period of testing for Moses. Most of us know the story, but few of us have sensed the way his soul was tried. It would not be over-emphasizing the point to say that everything that Moses believed was put to the test!

I. The background.

God had called Moses back to Egypt to deliver His people. Everything moved along perfectly until Moses went before Pharaoh. Then, when he wanted more than ever to see the hand of God at work, it seemed that everything collapsed. Cf. Ex. 5:1 ff.; the summary, vv. 22, 23. It is easy to see that Moses is completely bewildered.

Note that he does not doubt his call, but he cannot understand why things have gone the way they have. Was God right in what He had called Moses to do? Does He deserve to be trusted? Can God always do what He sets out to do? At this point he is about as far away from the spirit of Ex. 15 as he could possibly be.

It is certainly to Moses' credit that he "returned unto the Lord" (Ex. 5:22).

What did God do? Ex. 6 gives the record of one of those special times when God spoke with his servant.

What did God say to him? He reminded Moses of His past dealings with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of the promises He had made to them.

Then He proceeded to reveal Himself to Moses as Jehovah. This is precisely the name of God which is used by Moses in our text: Jehovah, the Unchanging God, the name which is associated with His faithfulness to His promises.

And, what is possibly most important of all, He tells Moses why the deliverance did not come when he first went to Pharaoh. See Ex. 6:7. This is what Moses was to tell the Israelites (cf. v. 6a). It is usually through experience that we really come into a knowledge of the truth. Alone with God he was re-assured by the word of God, though outwardly the situation remained unchanged.

It is worth noting that after Ex. 6:12 Moses seems to have been brought to a place of real peace. After "God

gave them a charge," there is no evidence that Moses doubted after that.

How important it is to get alone with the Lord! There, with the Word open, we can be reassured that God will never fail. The question at this point was not when or how would God deliver Israel, but would He deliver them!

As we read Moses words in Ex. 5:22, 23 we can be reminded of Paul's words in Romans 11:34,

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord?
or who hath been his counsellor?"

There are times when we feel that our wisdom would have proven greater than God's, but this is when we need the kind of help Moses was about to receive.

And do not forget that this is one big reason why this story has been preserved for us. If God failed Moses, then I should be afraid. But if there was no cause for Moses to fear, then I can be confident in the Lord.

Let us look at the record.

II. The faithfulness of God.

Is there anything more exciting in all of human history than the record of what took place between Ex. 6 and 15 where our text is?

Have you gotten so familiar with the story of the exodus that it fails to speak to your heart any longer?

Think of the plagues. Think of that Passover night. Think of the way the Red Sea opened before the children of Israel. And then turn with me to Ex. 14:30, 31.

There they were--the lifeless bodies of the once powerful Egyptian soldiers, slain by the mighty intervention of God. (Read v. 31 again.)

Months had gone by, possibly more than a year (we do not know the exact amount of time) since God had spoken to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 6. But the answer came. God had not only delivered them from Egypt, but He had delivered them from the Egyptians!

III. The outcome: the first Psalm of the Bible (Ex. 15).

Suddenly there is singing! It is "a new song" (Psa. 40:3), a song that was new to them, one they had never sung before!

What did they sing?

Time forbids a complete examination of this psalm, but will you note that our text contains Israel's testimony that they had learned exactly what God had wanted to teach them?

Read v. 11.

The contest had not just been between Moses and Pharaoh, or between Israel and Egypt, but between the God of Israel and the Satanic gods of Egypt. AND IT HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED FOR ALL TIME THAT THERE IS NO GOD LIKE ISRAEL'S GOD!

And so great was the impact of this lesson that it is repeated as a theme several other places in the Bible.

This made Moses want to go into the land:

"O Lord God, thou has begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?" (Deut. 3:24).

Just before he died Moses wrote:

"There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help . . ." (Deut. 33:26).

Even David used Moses' theme in Psa. 86:8-10:

"Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone."

And Micah, the great Messianic prophet, says as he brings his prophecy to a conclusion:

"Who is a God like unto thee . . ." (7:18a).

Isaiah found God so great that no likeness on earth could fittingly represent Him. Cf. Isa. 40:18, 25.

But we still have not seen what it was about God that made Him distinct and far superior to all of the gods of men. What were Moses and the Israelites grateful for that they had discovered in their God?

(1) "Glorious in holiness." What does this mean? It means that the glorious thing about God is His

holiness. There is no sin in Him. He never deceives us, never makes mistakes. He always does what is right.

This is something the Lord is not hesitant for us to test. Do you remember how He rebuked His people through Jeremiah?

"What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they have gone far from me?" (Jer. 2:5).

Even the Lord Jesus said,

"Which of you convinceth (convicteth) me of sin?" (John 8:46).

There is no charge we can bring against Him. We can always truth Him because He is holy.

- (2) "Fearful in praises" - What do they mean by this? Fear here equals reverence. Doubtless they are thinking of God's faithfulness, and that He is always worthy of our praise—even before the deliverance comes. Moses continued to reverence the Lord by His obedience.

David:
"For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods" (1 Chr. 16:25; Psa. 96:4).

He may not give me what I want, but, if not, it will be something better.

- (3) "Doing wonders."

If there was one thing that the Israelites learned it was that nothing is impossible with God! We are always afraid that God will either be too little or too late; He can be neither. Cf. v. 6.

Asaph: "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old" (Psa. 77:11). Also, "Thou art a God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people" (Psa. 77:14).

Do you remember what Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar when he was interpreting his dream for him?

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35).

Concl: Surely some here today are going through times of testing. Maybe you feel like Moses did, that everything you believe is being put to the test.

What comfort there should be for you in Moses' song, written out of experience with God.

There was a time when Moses could not see the way out. There was no song in his heart in Ex. 6. But the

record is here, proving that Moses made no mistake in waiting for the Lord to work. And neither will you.

As the Lord said through the prophet Habakkuk (2:2,3):

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."