

Exodus 15:1-21
“The Song of Moses and Miriam”

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. (14:29-31)

Read 15:1-5 The Lord is my strength and my song

Music played an important role in Israel’s (and most ancient civilizations) worship and celebration. It was also an often used means of passing down oral history and traditions. Look up: Psalm 106:9-12

v.1 – “*I will sing to the Lord*” - One great principle of worship is that it is unto the Lord, not unto man. When we worship God in song, our audience is the Lord Himself and no other person, thing, thought or distraction.

v.2 - When we let God be our strength, He will also be our song. We will sing because of the victory won by the great strength of the Lord. We will have a joy that can only be aptly expressed through song because of who He is to us. God has become our salvation. We cannot save ourselves, but God is the salvation of all who will call upon His mighty name.

Read 15:6-10 You have overthrown those who rose against You

Notice that it is God’s enemies who have been overthrown, not Israel’s enemies.

v.6-7 - The right hand was an expression of skill and power. This was expression frequently used to describe the works of the Lord using a human figure of speech, even though it does not literally apply to God’s right hand being more powerful than any other feature of God. This idea of the right hand is used often in the Scriptures, including these passages:

Psalm 45:4 God's right hand teaches us
Psalm 48:10 God's right hand is full of righteousness
Psalm 110:1 The Father invites the Son to sit at His right hand

Habakkuk 2:16 The cup of judgment is held in His right hand
Mark 16:19 Jesus ascends to the right hand of God
Ephesians 1:20 Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father

Read 15:11-13 Who among the gods is like you?

v.11 –If the people of Egypt still did not know who the Lord was, the people of Israel did. They knew the Lord was not like any of the false gods of Egypt or Canaan. Our worship to God should proclaim the superiority of the Lord God over anything else that attempts to claim a place in our lives before Him.

Vs. 13 – underline the key words of this verse. How does this verse apply to us?

Read 15:14-18 The people will hear and be afraid

v. 14-16 – The lands listed are roughly in the order Israel would travel from Mt. Sinai to Canaan. Moses and the children of Israel knew that the victory also said something to the enemies of Israel. They would become afraid when they heard of the great things God did for Israel. Look up: Joshua 2:10, Nehemiah 6:16

v.17 – mountain/dwelling – the mount of worship at Shiloh and, later, Mt. Zion. (Psalm 76:2) Read Hebrews 12:22-24

Read 15:19-21 Miriam’s Song

v.20 - This is the first mention of Miriam by name, and she is described as the sister of Aaron, so she is therefore also the sister of Moses. Look up: Exodus 4:14

Numbers 26:59 seems to indicate that Moses only had one sister. This sister witnessed the launching of the basket onto the Nile River to preserve his life (Exodus 2:4) and she arranged the hiring of Moses' mother as his nurse.

Miriam was called a prophetess not only because she received revelations from God and helped lead Israel (Numbers 12:1-2, Micah 6:4) but also for her musical skill. Prophecy and music were often closely related in the Bible (1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Chronicles 25:1).

Is song important to the Lord? Consider just a few of the mentions in scripture that affirm its worth:

Judges 5:3 / 1 Chronicles 16:23, 33 / 2 Chronicles 20:21 / Psalm 9:11 / Psalm 30:4 / Psalm 32:11 / Psalm 95:1 / Psalm 104:33
Isaiah 12:5 / Jeremiah 31:7 / Romans 15:11 / Ephesians 5:19 / Colossians 3:16 / James 5:13 / Revelation 5:9, 14:3