

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

FACING FREEDOM:
THE PLACE FOR PRAISE
EXODUS 15:1-21

The Importance of Praise

- Praise is an essential element of a vital Christian life.
- Without our praise God is no less glorious.
- When we fail to praise God we are inexorably drawn to other God's.
- We are, by some secret law of the soul, drawn to the object of our affection and praise.
- What does true praise require?

Praise for what God has Done (Vv. 1-5)

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider
he has hurled into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

³The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

Praise For Who God is (Vv. 6-11)

⁶ “Your right hand, O LORD,
was majestic in power.

Your right hand, O LORD,
shattered the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils

the waters piled up.

The surging waters stood firm like a wall;

the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 “The enemy boasted,

‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.

I will divide the spoils;

I will gorge myself on them.

I will draw my sword

and my hand will destroy them.’

¹⁰ But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

¹¹ “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?

Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?

Praise for What God Will Do

¹² You stretched out your right hand
and the earth swallowed them.

¹³ “In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.

¹⁴ The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will melt away;

16 terror and dread will fall upon them.

By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, O LORD,
until the people you bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established.

18 The LORD will reign
for ever and ever.”

Let There be Praise

¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,

for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider

he has hurled into the sea.”

Principles to Take Home

- The importance of corporate praise.
- Corporate praise is predicated on the praise of individuals.
- Praise is essential to the formation of a Christian worldview.
- Praise is essential for the maintenance of a Christian worldview.

To Go . . .

- Who or what would your friends or family say that you praise?
- Who deserves your praise?
- How could the spiritual discipline of praise transform your life?