

## Exodus 15

Verses 1 - 13

**Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying:**

**“I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted;  
The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.**

**<sup>2</sup> The Lord is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation;  
This is my God, and I will praise Him;  
My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.**

**<sup>3</sup> The Lord is a warrior; The Lord is His name.**

**<sup>4</sup> Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has thrown into the sea;  
And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.**

**<sup>5</sup> The waters cover them;  
They went down into the depths like a stone.**

**<sup>6</sup> Your right hand, Lord, is majestic in power;  
Your right hand, Lord, destroys the enemy.**

**<sup>7</sup> And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up  
against You;**

**You send out Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them like chaff.**

**<sup>8</sup> At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up,  
The flowing waters stood up like a heap;  
The depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.**

**<sup>9</sup> The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils;  
I shall be satisfied against them;  
I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.’**

**<sup>10</sup> You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them;  
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

**<sup>11</sup> Who is like You among the gods, Lord?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in praises, working wonders?**

**<sup>12</sup> You reached out with Your right hand, The earth swallowed them.**

**<sup>13</sup> In Your faithfulness You have led the people whom You have redeemed;  
In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.**

This song about the defeat of the Egyptian army at the Red Sea by the Mighty hand of God was a way for the people to express their thankfulness to God. Many Psalms were written about various victories of Israel over their enemies.

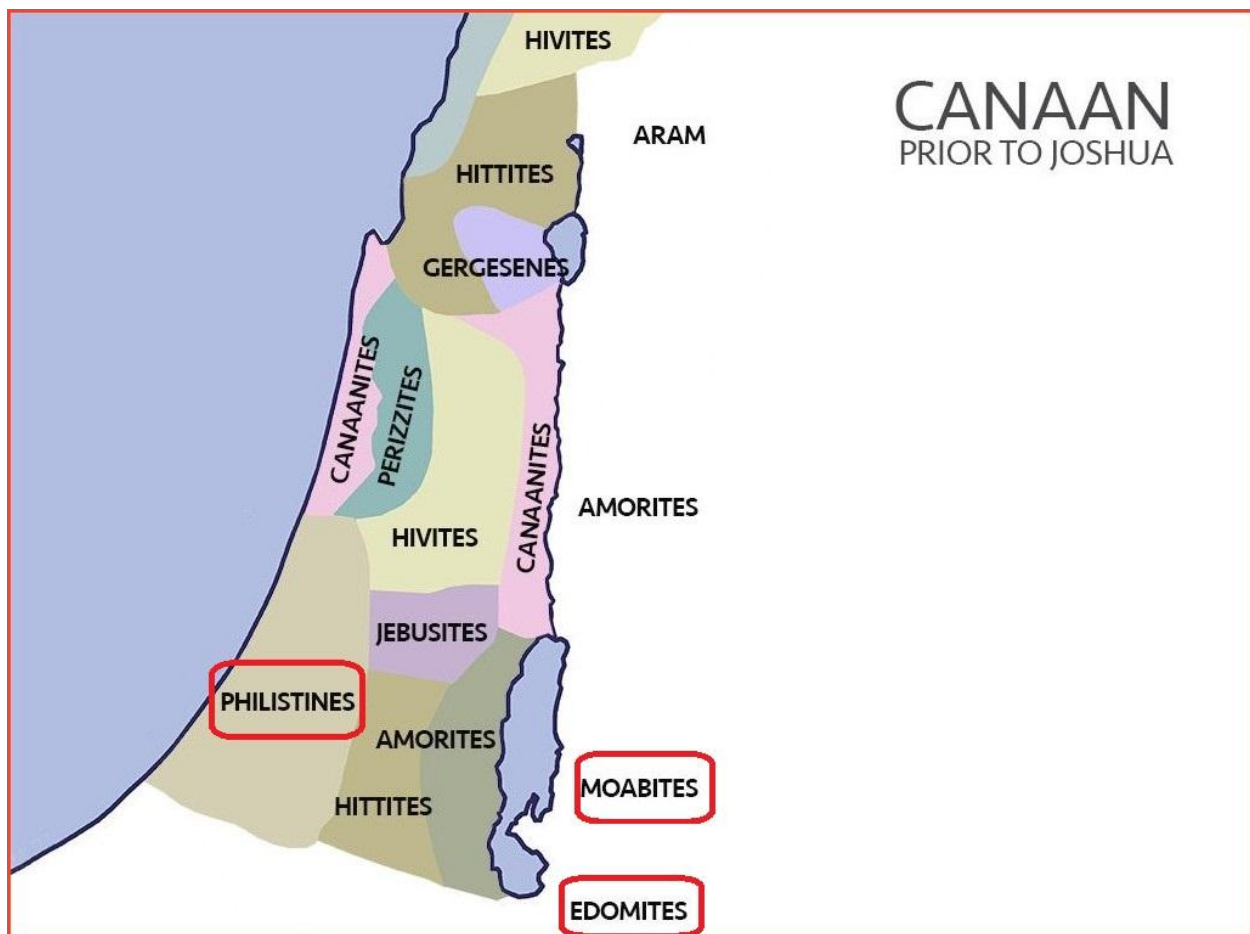
Verses 14 - 18

<sup>14</sup> The peoples have heard, they tremble;  
Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia.

<sup>15</sup> Then the chiefs of Edom were terrified;  
The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them;  
All the inhabitants of Canaan have despaired.

<sup>16</sup> Terror and dread fall upon them;  
By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone,  
Until Your people pass over, Lord,  
Until the people pass over whom You have purchased.

See Map 1505



These nations probably hadn't heard about the exodus and the Red Sea crossings yet but they are paralyzed because the news about the 10 plagues that took place over an 8 to 12 month period had reached them.

Verses 17 - 18

**<sup>17</sup> You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance,  
The place, Lord, which You have made as Your dwelling,  
The sanctuary, Lord, which Your hands have established.**

**<sup>18</sup> The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”**

These verses are a reference to the Promised Land which Israel will not inhabit for another 40 years.

Verses 19 - 21

**<sup>19</sup> For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea. <sup>20</sup> Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took the tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam answered them, “Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea.”**

**<sup>20</sup> Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took the tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.**

In verse 20 we learn that Miriam was a prophetess. Isn’t it interesting that a prophetess led the woman in song and dance. This scene is somewhat reminiscent of many weddings receptions where the woman dance and most of the men sit around and watch.

**<sup>21</sup> And Miriam answered them,**

**“Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted;  
The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea.”**

Given the depth of the water this was truly one of the most dramatic miracles recorded in scripture. In addition given the size of Israel, 2.5 million people with their herds, it must have taken 6 to 8 hours for them to cross the 10 mile distance. They had to go down about 1 mile to reach the bottom of the sea and back up again to reach the shore on the other side. All miracles are supernatural but the magnitude of this caused the people to sing to the Lord and extol His great majesty.

Verses 22-26

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses led 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. <sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. <sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” <sup>25</sup> Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and he threw *it* into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. <sup>26</sup> And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses led 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.

See maps 1510



Once they crossed the right finger of the Red Sea they were in Saudi Arabia.



<sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah.

See pic 1515



The 2.5 million people and their herds had been without a water supply for 3 days and when they finally found water, it was too bitter to drink. So how did the people of Israel respond to this dilemma?

<sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

Why was complaining their first response to many problems? Since God had just performed one of the most amazing miracles that anyone could imagine He should be able to fix some bitter water.

See Matt. 7:7-11

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? <sup>11</sup> So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**<sup>25</sup> Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and he threw *it* into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them.**

We know the Lord healed the waters, so why did Moses need to cast a tree into the waters. Perhaps the people needed a visible sign to believe the water had been cured of its bitterness.

They named the place Marah (which meant bitter) after the waters they found there but they could have named it, "God provided fresh water". One should not be Pollyannaish about the bad things that happen to us in this life but God knows what we need and He is willing to help if we will just ask. But what should we do if it seems that God's answer to our prayers seem to be no or not now. Well, we do have an advocate in Christ who prayed that "this cup be removed" but it wasn't because His suffering was needed for the greater good that would be accomplished. And He was rewarded for doing what was right. And if we suffer for doing what is right or for the greater good we will also be rewarded. It may not be easy but God know what will make us better people and sometimes it involves suffering.

Verse 27

**<sup>27</sup> Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.**

See video 1520      Elim

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.13.html>

The 12 springs of water and the 70 date palms may have corresponded to the 12 tribes of Israel and the 70 members of Jacob's family who went down to Egypt or perhaps the 70 elders that currently ruled Israel.