

## Exodus 15

Verses 1-3

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

**“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 extol Him.**

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

### **The Lord is a warrior**

God’s judgment on Egypt was a great victory for Israel but he destroyed Egypt because of their sin including many false gods and the oppression of Israel

Verses 4-6

**“Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;  
And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.**

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

**<sup>6</sup>“Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power,  
Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.**

**And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea**

**They went down into the depths like a stone.**

The heavy armor which the best officers wore into battle insured they would drown in the deep water

Verses 7-10

**“And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You;**

**You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.**

**<sup>8</sup>“At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up,**

**The flowing waters stood up like a heap;**

**The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.**

**<sup>9</sup>“The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;**

**My desire shall be gratified against them;**

**I will draw out 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>9</sup>“The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;**

**My desire shall be gratified against them;**

**I will draw out my sword, my hand will destroy them.’**

Armies throughout history have been motivated by opportunity and/or desperation

These officers were well aware of the gold and silver that had been given to the slaves

They were also in need of cheap labor to fuel their economic growth and easy life style

But this second motivation was overcome by a greater need for vengeance

Verses 11-13

**“Who is like You among the gods, O Lord?**

**Who is like You, majestic in holiness,**

**Awesome in praises, working wonders?**

**<sup>12</sup>“You stretched out Your right hand,**

**The earth swallowed them.**

**<sup>13</sup>“In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed;**

**In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.**

**Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?**

The term gods refers to any and all false gods that were held in high esteem

## **Who is like you, majestic in holiness?**

The gods were often vindictive and petty

But The Lord was righteous

## **In your strength you have guided *them* to your holy habitation.**

Some think this may be a reference to Canaan since God had promised Abraham that his descendants would possess the land and also because this will be their destination in the near future.

See Psalms 78:54

However, this verse says “you have guided” suggesting this has already been accomplished.

But we know they will not even get near Canaan until a year and 4 months from now

And after their rebellion at that time it will take another 39 years

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 dismayed;  
The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them;  
All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.**

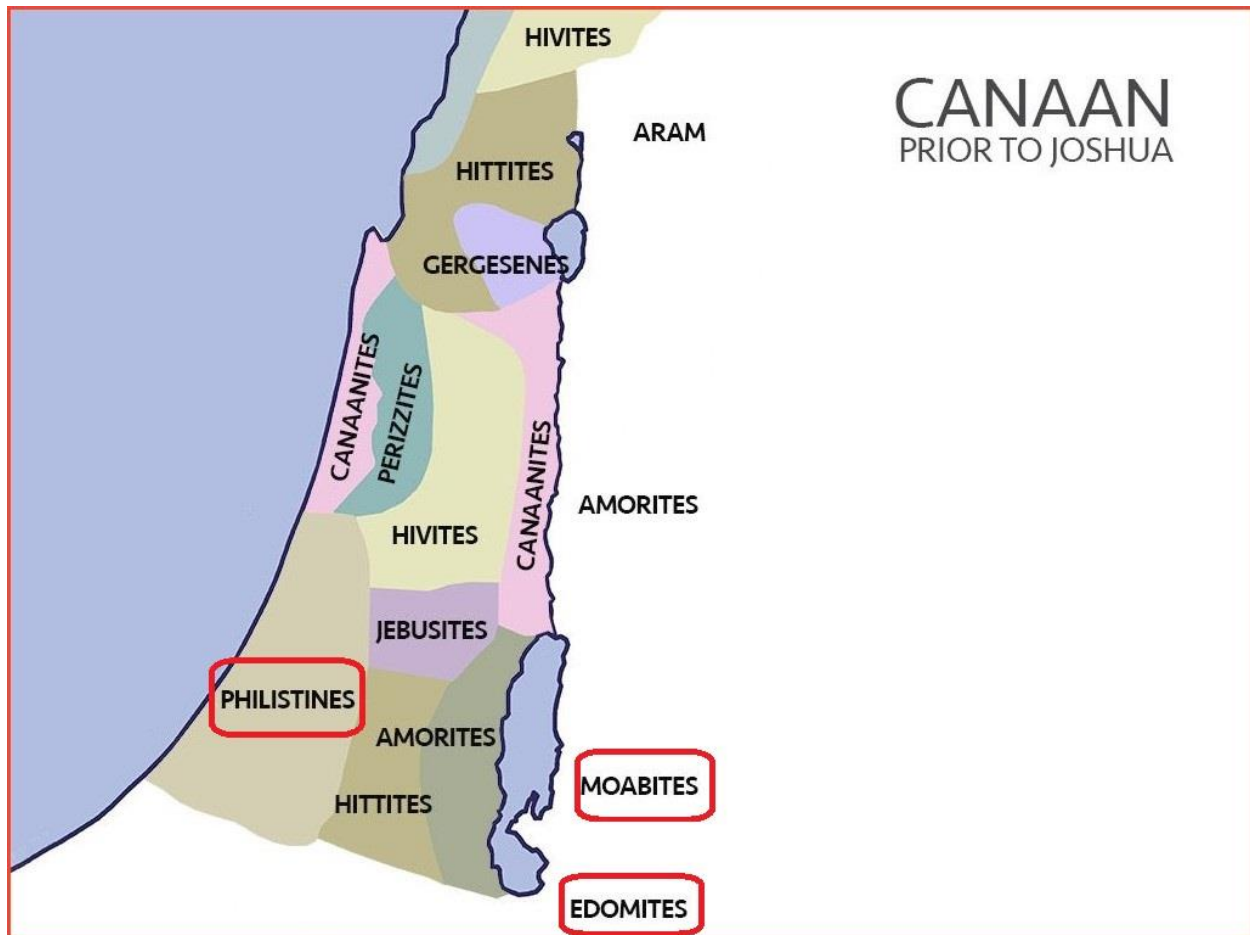
**“Terror and dread fall upon them;  
By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone;  
Until Your people pass over, O Lord,  
Until the people pass over whom You have purchased.**

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

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

**Philistia, Edom, Moab, and all of Canaan**

See Map 1505



**Terror and dread fall upon them;  
By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone;**

These nations probably hadn't heard about the exodus and the Red Sea crossings yet so why are they so paralyzed?

Because the 10 plagues took place over an 8 to 12 month period and the news about many of the plagues had reached them

**You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance**

Since this verse indicates a future time frame, this is a reference to the Promised Land  
It is a sanctuary, a separated place, for the people of Israel

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 timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing. <sup>21</sup> Miriam answered them, "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea."**

**Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took the timbrel in her hand**

Miriam is the first woman mentioned in the Bible as a prophetess

**All the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing**

Timbrels were small hand drums similar to a tambourine

See 1510



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.”

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, to the wilderness of Shur

See maps 1515



**They went three days in the wilderness and found no water**

2.5 million people and their herds without water for 3 days

When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters, for they were bitter

See pic 1520



And when they finally found water, it was too bitter to drink

So what should the people of Israel have done?

They could have asked Moses to approach God about their needs

**So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”**

Why is complaining the first response to many problems?

It may just be a bad habit.

Jesus told believers that if they have a need they should ask God for help

See Matt. 7:7-11

**The Lord showed him a tree; and he threw *it* into the waters, and the waters became sweet.**

We know the Lord healed the waters, so why did Moses need to cast a tree into the waters

Maybe the people needed a sign to believe the water had been healed

There seems to have been a propensity in Israel to perpetuate unpleasant memories

They named the place Marah (which meant bitter) after the waters they found there

They could have named it, "God provided fresh water"

However, some Christians go to an extreme in the other direction and act like everything in life is a blessing!

Job in the Book of Job and Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastics present a more realistic view of this world.

It is a fallen world that is unpredictable and unfair and that is why we need to depend on God.

See Romans 8:35-39

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 1525     Elim

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

The 12 springs of water and the 70 date palms

Did these quantities or amounts happen by chance?

The 12 springs corresponded to the 12 Tribes

The 70 Palms represented the 70 members of Jacob's family who went down to Egypt or perhaps the 70 elders that currently ruled Israel