OPEN

This is our last week for this series on God's plan of deliverance for the Israelites, bringing us to chapter 15, to the song of Moses and Miriam.

Last week, we saw that through the parting of the Red Sea and the display of God's power over the Egyptians, God was showing his glory, that the Israelites – and us with them – might be eternally 'wowed' by God's greatness, that we might never lose sight of the one who calls us.

As this part of the story comes to a close, we see Moses, and then Miriam, Moses' sister, break into song. It's a reminder of the message God was giving throughout the plagues, that God was delivering his people for the purpose of freeing them to worship and follow him.

The key verse for this week's text is verse 2, where Moses says, "The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." When people have hope and joy, they have a song in their heart. God wants to be the song bubbling up in each of our hearts, as we see his concern, love, and power to bring us salvation through Christ. What is the song in your heart these days? Do you have worship in your heart for God over what he has done for you in Christ? Do you have joy in the Spirit?

REFLECT

- In Ex. 15:1, it begins by saying "Then" they began to sing….Looking back, what action of God precedes this verse / chapter to cause such singing and praise?
- In Ex. 15:11, what are the three areas Moses mentions about God in comparison to the gods of Egypt?
- In the next verse of this song, v. 13, how does Moses say God has led his people through their journey thus far?
- How was the parting of the Red Sea, according to vv.14-16, also being used of God for what comes next for the Israelites?

DISCUSS

- How much does worship music personally help you connect with God? A lot? A little? Why do you think that worship through music seems to always have been a practice of the people of God, as we see here in Exodus 15? What is it about music or song?
- Texts of scripture like Ex 15, but also the Book of Psalms, show us that worship is both corporate and personal. What other things might come to mind about the nature or importance of song in worship from passages like these for believers?
- Notice that in verse 2, Moses says that God is not only the 'God of his father' but also now 'my God.' How about you? If it applies, when did you transition from God being the faith of your parents or someone close to you, to God now being your God? Share with each other.
- One question that needs to be asked as we come to the end of this part of the story in Exodus – of God now having delivered the Israelites from slavery – is where is all this going? What's the ultimate destination in terms of what's next and where God is taking them? The answer is partly revealed in Exodus 15:13 and 17. What does it say about what God is leading them to? How does that apply to us?
- In the New Testament, we see that we don't so much find God's presence in a place but now, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, in our hearts. In your experience, what are some of the ways God makes his presence known to us? Share your experience.
- Through this series on the first 15 chapters of Exodus, of seeing God bring the Israelites from slavery to song, what are some of the big take aways you feel you have learned?

APPLY/PRAY

1. Take time to worship together…

In prayer, begin to recount to God the things he has done for you, and give him praise! Put on a song or two, and worship him together in song…don't be shy to exalt him together in song.

2. Pray for what's next…

We are reminded that there was now a new journey ahead for the Israelites and a 'next thing' God intended to lead them to…pray for your 'next thing' in God's plan - that you would be ready for it!