

Worship As Response

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 9th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

The LORD is my strength and my 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.

~Exodus 15:2 (ESV)

1) Worship As Response To God's Work

- A) Exodus 15 marks the beginning of the second half of the Exodus account. Chapters 1-14 are primarily concerned with the slavery of God's people in Egypt. Egypt will now fade into the background, as Chapters 15-40 describe how God's people become God's nation, the people of Israel.

- B) In quick response to God's clear victory over Egypt (Exodus 14:30-31), Moses composes a song (alt. Song of Moses, Song of The Sea, Song of Moses & Miriam) and gathers all the people together for a time of national worship.

- C) It is notable that the first response of Moses and the people is worship for what God has accomplished! This is at the heart of worship. Observing what God has done and expressing "glory to God" (honor) for His actions. Exodus teaches us holistic worship for all of God's people.

2) The Song of Moses At The Sea With Miriam Singing, Too...

- A) The Song of Moses is written in a very stylized manner, utilizing Hebrew poetry. As such, the meaning is less in the precise wording and found more in the overall picture it creates for the reader. Hebrew poetry is less concerned with precision as it is with conveying an overall meaning.
- B) The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-21) was probably composed in three sections. The first section responds to what God has done (Exodus 15:1-12), the second section looks forward to what God will do (15:13-19), and the third section is a celebratory worship blessing (15:20-21).

3) God's Work Honored, Forseen, and Celebrated

- A) The first section of the Song is a direct honoring of God by the people for all God had done in providing salvation from Egypt (15:1-12). It emphasizes God's power, often explaining God's power with human-like characteristics.
- B) The second section of the Song looks forward to an eventual conquering of the Promised Land (Canaan) from the occupying nations (15:13-18). This portion of the song is probably a more mature reflection which was added at a later date to the song, a "completion" of sorts to the fullness of God's power which reached forward in history. This section is finished with a quick narrative re-cap (15:19).
- C) The final section of the Song is a pure celebratory response to God's work, led specifically by Miriam (15:20), probably indicating that the women of Israel responded with this portion of the Song in an antiphonal response.
- D) The Song lends a brilliant picture of thanksgiving, honor, and celebration for God through poetry, song, instruments, and dancing as a response to God's work with His people!