

Henry Ow
 HCC: You Shall Know that I AM
 Exodus 15:1-21

INTRODUCTION

1. Image: Fall 1873, Horatio Spafford, a devout Christian and wealthy Chicago businessman sent his wife and four daughters ahead on a planned vacation to the UK to see their friend D.L. Moody preach.
2. Need: We expect walking with God gets easier
3. Subject: What do we sing to help us trust God?
4. Text: Exodus 15:1-21
 - a. Moses teaches Israel to sing a song (15:1)
 - b. Miriam teaches the women to sing a song (15:19-21)
5. Preview: The text reveals three things to sing about. After each main point, I'll give you a hymn or song to consider for meditation.

BODY

- I. Sing about God's uniqueness so that you trust him (15:2; 11)
 - A. God uniquely reveals himself to us (15:2)
 1. God revealed himself uniquely to Moses (15:2)
 2. God reveals himself uniquely to each of us
 - B. God uniquely works (15:11)
 1. God's works demonstrate his superiority over other powers (15:11)
 2. God's works demonstrates his superiority over our lives (?)
 - C. A song about God's uniqueness: Holy, Holy, Holy

- II. Sing about God's deliverance so that you trust him (15:3-10; 12; 15-16a)
 - A. God delivers Israel from its enemies (15:3-10; 12)
 1. God delivered Israel from the Egyptians (15:3-10)
 2. God will deliver Israel from its future enemies (15:12)
 - B. God delivers us from our enemies
 1. God delivered us from sin
 2. God will deliver us from our flesh
 - C. A song about God's redemption: In Christ Alone
- III. Sing about God's plan so that you trust him (15:13a; 16b-18)
 - A. God plans to redeem people (15:13a; 16b)
 1. God redeems Israel
 2. God redeems Christians
 - B. God plans to bring people to his home (15:13b; 17-18)
 1. God plans to bring Israel to his dwelling place (15:13b; 17-18)
 - a. God brings Israel to Mt. Sinai
 - b. God brings Israel to the Tabernacle
 - c. God brings Israel to the Temple
 2. God plans to bring Christians to his home
 Jesus says he's preparing a home for us
 - C. A song about God's plan: "The Lord is My Salvation"

Conclusion

1. Review: Sing about God's uniqueness, deliverance, and plan.
2. Closing Image: In his grief, he penned: "It is well with my soul."

MANUSCRIPT

Fall 1873, Horatio Spafford, a devout Christian and wealthy Chicago businessman sent his wife and four daughters ahead on a planned vacation to the UK to see their friend D.L. Moody preach. A business matter prevented Horatio from joining his family on this trip. As his family boarded the ramp to the *Ville Du Havre*, he must have thought: “they’d see each other in a few weeks”

As the *Ville Du Havre* made trip across the Atlantic, an accident occurred. On Nov 22 at 2:00 in the morning, a British vessel *Lochearn* hit the *Ville Du Havre*. Mrs. Spafford saw the sea pull away three of her daughters as continued to hold her youngest. It wasn’t long afterward, when the sea also tore their youngest daughter away from her arms as well. Mrs. Spafford became unconscious and awoke aboard the *Lochearn*. But her four daughters were gone. When she arrived in the UK, she sent a telegram to her husband with two words: “Saved Alone”.

We expect walking with God gets easier over time. When we first place our faith in Christ, we experience such excitement because we have been delivered from our sins. We immediately share with our friends about our new relationship with Christ. Instead of being met with excitement, we see expressions of bewilderment. Who in their right mind would believe the things of the Bible? Others of us discover very quickly to have a relationship with God results in the realignment of our priorities. We learn that being Christian limits the dating pool from everyone to only those who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior. We learn that being Christian means that we should actually love people even those who are difficult to get along with. We learn that being Christian means that we actually should be generous with our money. As we realize that a relationship with God turns our world upside down by making us

others focused. When walking with God becomes difficult, we begin to grumble. We complain. We express our frustration that God is not doing what he promised to do.

When the reality of following God does not align with our expectation of following God, it results in songs of grumbling. We hum along to the tune of complaint. When Israel came out of the land of Egypt, they expected an easy journey to the promised land. They didn't expect their back to the Red Sea and the Egyptian army in front of them. How could God do this to them? They complain: God has led them to die in the wilderness. But God delivers them by leading them through the Red Sea.

When we experience circumstances challenging our trust in God, what do we say to ourselves? What do we say to others? What do we sing? **What do we sing to help us trust God?**

After God leads Israel through the Red Sea, Moses composes a song for Israel to sing. Of all the things, Moses could have done he gave them a song. Moses could have said everyone pick up a rock from the wilderness and it will serve as remembrance to you that God delivered you from the Egyptians. He could have said remember a rhyme. No... He taught them a song.

Songs have a certain appeal to them. We find ourselves humming a tune out of the blue. They teach us things. Many of us learned our ABCs through singing a song. We connect with a song because it expresses the feelings of heart break. It's a part of how God made us. For further reflection, you can read Alex's food for thought this week. It's in your bulletin. He writes about how a patient is still able to sing songs from his youth even though he experienced a stroke.

We find the song written by Moses in Exodus 15. If you have your Bibles, then please turn there with me. Exodus 15. Exodus 15.

The text reveals to us that not only did Moses teach Israel how to sing this particular song, but Miriam his sister taught it as well. Moses teaches Israel to sing a song. We see this in verse 1. It reads: *“Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”* Miriam teaches the women to sing this song too. Look with me at verse 20-21: *“The Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”* Both Moses and Miriam teach Israel this song so that they would learn to trust the Lord.

When you read through the book of Exodus, you’ll discover that this song serves as a transition. Would Israel as it wanders through the wilderness believe in the truths of this song and trust God? Or would they doubt God’s faithfulness? You’ll have to come back next week to see how Israel fares.

In Exodus 15, we’ll see three things for us to sing about. The text reveals three things to sing about. After each point, I’ll give you a hymn or song to consider for meditation.

What is the first thing that God teaches us to sing about in this chapter?

Sing about God’s uniqueness so that you trust him. Sing about how God is different than anything you could ever know or imagine. Make melody about how God is set apart. Burst into song about God’s distinctness. Sing about God’s uniqueness so that you trust in him.

God reveals two aspects of his uniqueness in this song. First, **God uniquely reveals himself to us**. The way he unveils himself to us is different. God revealed himself uniquely to Moses. Read with me in verse 2: *“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.”* Notice how the word: “my” is repeated five times: “my strength, my song, my salvation, my God, and my Father’s God.” Moses’s relationship with God is personal. Israel’s relationship with God is personal. After God delivered Israel from Egypt through the passage of the Red Sea, Israel had a chance to uniquely experience God’s salvation in a way that their forefathers never did. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never had to walk through a sea to escape their enemies. But this generation of Israel did. Note how this verse highlights God’s unique relationship with Israel through the phrase: “my father’s God.” It bears similarity to “my God”, but is different. Israel seems to have recognized that it’s no longer the God of my ancestors. I see that the Lord is my God as well.

God reveals himself uniquely to each of us. While all of us believe that we are sinners saved by grace, how God revealed that to us is different. For some of us, God may have used a broken relationship leading us to find the ultimate relationship with him. Others of us may have struggled with anxiety but found peace through a relationship with God. How God brings us to place and season to contemplate our need for him is unique. When you gather together with other believers to share testimonies, you discover that God has uniquely led each person to himself.

Another aspect of his uniqueness is his works. **God uniquely works**. God uniquely works. His works have no comparison. His deeds have no equal. **God uniquely works**.

Why? **God's works demonstrate his superiority over other powers.** God's works demonstrate his superiority and his power. Look with me at verse 11. It says: *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"* Through the different plagues and deliverance through the sea, God demonstrates that his authority is above the gods of Egypt. He defeated them by demonstrating that the Egyptian gods could not prevent the Nile from turning into blood, turn back the frogs, guard against the locust, or protect their first-born sons. Only the God of the Hebrews could do these things and his name is Yahweh.

God's works demonstrates his superiority over our lives. Prior to coming to faith in Christ, we discovered how the things of this world could not provide the satisfaction that we thought. For students, we think that once we are in the top 10% in high school we have arrived. Then we enter into college and realize that everyone here was in the top 10% too. Some of us think that once we get the next promotion, I'll be satisfied. Another promotion comes, and it just sets you up to look for another promotion or position. We discover that one of the ways God works in our lives is to highlight how the world fails to satisfy the longing of our souls. Only when we come to discover Christ as our Lord and savior do we find a peace that transcends understanding. We learn that when it comes to everything else in the world, we see it as pale sick and poor.

We talked about two elements of God's uniqueness. God uniquely reveals himself to us. God uniquely works.

What is a song that reminds us of God's uniqueness? What is a song that we might sing in order to meditate on God's uniqueness? I thought about the song: "How Great Thou Art."

Hear the first verse of this hymn, it says: “O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder. Consider all the worlds thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed; then sings my soul, my savior God to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art!” It’s hard to read and not sing it. This is a song that you might want to consider adding to your memory banks. When you may in a season of doubt, hum or sing this tune.

What is the second thing that we sing about? **Sing about God’s deliverance so that you trust him.** Sing about how God saved you. Allow God’s deliverance to be topic of your praise. **Sing about God’s deliverance so that you trust him.**

What is God’s deliverance? For Moses, he saw God deliver Israel from its enemies. God delivers Israel from its enemies. He defeats those who oppressed Israel. God delivers Israel from its enemies.

Moses devotes a lot of space to this particular idea in his song. We see the idea: **God delivered Israel from the Egyptians.** This comprises a large part of the song. We see this in verse 3 through 10 and also verse 12. From these verses, I’d like to highlight a phrase or idea repeated several times: “your right hand”. It is repeated twice in verse 6: “Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.” We see it mentioned again verse 12: “You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed him”

This phrase: “your right hand” is a metaphor for power. Typically, warriors wielded their swords in their right hands. God demonstrated his power by defeating the Egyptians by bring the sea down upon them. God as the divine warrior defeats Israel’s enemies.

Moses also devotes time singing about how God will deliver Israel from its future enemies. God will deliver Israel from its future enemies. Look with me at verse 14 thru 16. Note these different people groups that are mentioned: Philistia, Edom, Moab, Canaan. *“The people have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as stone.”* Did you hear Moses mentioning these groups: Philistia, Edom, Moab, and Canaan? One has got to wonder who are these people? For those of you who have read other books of the Old Testament, you’ll know that these are Israel’s adversaries that arise later. Why does Moses mention them now in the song? It’s affirm that even with these future enemies, God will deliver them. Did you notice the word: arm? It’s in verse 16. It’s as though God is saying just as I delivered from your past enemies, I will also delivery you from your future ones as well.

Not only does God deliver Israel from its enemies, but God delivers us from our enemies as well. **God delivers us from our enemies.**

The first enemy, God defeated was sin. **God delivered us from sin.** Sin divided us from him. If it was unaddressed, then it would lead ultimately to our death. God intervened again with his power. He entered the world with his right hand so to speak. His Son came to earth to die on a cross for our sins, so that whoever believes in him would have his righteousness while he takes on our sin. Now he sits at God’s right hand. Jesus Christ is now the one with the greatest authority. He is our warrior king.

Despite being delivered from our sin, we still experience struggle committing sins. This struggle indicates that sin is still very much alive in our flesh. Paul writes about these fleshly desires and that the only way to overcome them is by walking in the Spirit. This is a daily struggle. But **God will deliver us from our flesh**. He delivers us from our flesh when Christ returns. For when Christ returns, we will receive new bodies just like his as we shed our current ones. God promises this future deliverance as well.

What song reminds us of God's deliverance? When I thought about this idea, I thought about the song: "In Christ alone". I'll read to you some of the verses. "In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save: Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live. There in the ground his Body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain: The bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me, For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ."

Let's move to our final point. What else do we sing about?

Sing about God's plan so that you trust him. Sing about God's plan so that you trust him. Carol about God's plan of redemption. Share about God's plan to save people. **Sing about God's plan so that you trust him.**

What is God's plan? **God plans to redeem people.** He plans to save men and women. He arranges things so that he can rescue people. God plans to redeem people.

First, we see this in his redemption of Israel. **God redeems Israel.** He saves them. Look with me at the first half of verse 13: "*You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you*

have redeemed.” Look with me also at the second half of verse 16: *“till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.”* The word: redeem in verse 13 depicts an idea of a kinsman redeeming his kin from difficulty or danger. It’s the idea of rescuing a relative from a dire situation. We see this depict later in the OT through the story of Ruth how Boaz redeems her as a kinsman redeemer. Likewise, we see depicted here God rescuing Israel as one has paid the price for Israel to be restored in relationship to him.

God also redeems Christians as well. For Mark records Jesus saying that he gave his life as a ransom for many. He paid the ransom price that held us hostage with his blood. The story of the Bible begins with humanity and focuses on the people of Israel, but then focuses again on how through Israel God would redeem humanity through Christ.

Not only does God plan to redeem people, but **God plans to bring people to his home.** God plans to have people dwell with him. He hopes that people would be able to be in his presence. God plans to bring people to his home.

God plans to bring Israel to his dwelling place. He leads Israel in the wilderness to the place where he dwells. For Israel will be a people, among whom God will dwell. Look with me at the later half of verse 13: *“You have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.”* Note the word: “holy abode”. Let’s look now at verses 17 thru 18: *“You will bring them in and plan them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.”* Did you note the word: “abode: repeated in both these passages? Where is this abode? Where is this home that Moses speaks of?

First, **God brings them to Mt. Sinai.** This is where they are currently headed on the journey. This is also where Moses first encountered God in the form of the burning bush. God's presence will descend upon this mountain in the form of clouds and lightning.

Next, **God brings them to the tabernacle.** At Mt. Sinai, God gives Israel instruction on how to construct a tabernacle. God's presence would dwell in this tabernacle.

Lastly, **God brings Israel to the temple.** When Israel settles in the land of Canaan, Solomon will construct a temple in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is situated on a mountain. Look at verse 17: "your own mountain" It could refer both to Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion, on which the temple is built. God's presence dwells in this temple.

Why does God want to make his dwelling among people and specifically Israel? If recall the garden of Eden, then you'd realize that it has always been God's intention for there to be unhindered relationship between him and man. Unfortunately, sin disrupted that fellowship and relationship. The Bible explains how God goes about restoring that relationship. He attempts that first through the nation of Israel.

God not only plans to bring Israel to his home, but God plans to bring Christians to his home as well. God plans to bring Christians to his home. We experience that in part now. As believers, the Holy Spirit dwells within us a deposit guaranteeing our future inheritance with God. The Spirit's presence foreshadows how we will live in close relationship with God. Jesus in the book of John talks about how he is preparing a home for us. We will experience this homecoming either in death or at Christ's return.

What is a song that reminds us of God's plans? There is a verse in the Getty song: "The Lord is my Salvation" That I'd like to draw attention to. While the song is based on Psalm 27, I

think that one of its verses is particularly fitting. Let me read it to you: “And when I reach my final day. He will not leave in the grave. But I will rise, He will call me home. The Lord is my salvation.”

When situations arise that cause us to doubt God’s promises, what should we do? We should sing. Sing about God’s uniqueness. Sing about God’s deliverance. Sing about God’s Plan. Sing so that you trust him.

After Horatio Spafford received news from his wife about the death of his daughters, he boarded a ship to join his wife. When the ship passed over the spot where the Ville du Havre sank, Spafford entered his cabin. In his grief, he penned a hymn: “It is well with my soul.”

“When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, though has taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.” It is well ____ with my soul____, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come, Let this blest assurance control that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.” May we too learn how to sing.