

IT'S TIME TO SING

5.19.19

Exodus 14:1-31 NASB Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ ⁴ Thus I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. ⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” ⁶ So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; ⁷ and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly. ⁹ Then the Egyptians chased after them with all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon. ¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. ¹⁷ As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen.” ¹⁹ The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. ²² The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. ²⁴ At the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. ²⁵ He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.” ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh’s entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. ²⁹ But the sons of

Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Exodus 15:1-5 NIV Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. ² The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³ The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. ⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. ⁵ The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

I. The Problem we all face

- A. "Most of God's People eventually sing, and they sing the right song. The problem is that they sing the right song on the wrong side." — David Wilkerson
- B. Most of the time we wait for resolution before we sing.
- C. This is the level of belief from which God is trying to release us.
- D. This is not a matter of **salvation**. It's a matter of **sanctification**.
- E. Notice "the answer" wasn't what they needed. The confidence that God would bring an answer was what they needed.
- F. Sometimes he shows mercy, or gives us a token of the grace we don't understand, but the question is whether or not we learn from those moments.
 - 1. Thomas' leap of faith when God met him in his weakness
 - 2. Jesus accommodation when the distressed Father asked for more faith
 - 3. "Others said it thundered."
 - 4. "If the works done in you had been done in Sodom..."
 - 5. Israel repeatedly failed test after test.

6. Jesus to the religious leaders, “But you will not come to me that you might believe and have life.”

II. The Promises we all forget

- A. #1. Everything is working for your good.
 1. **Romans 8:28 NIV** “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
 2. His eternal purpose is often not seen from our perspective—lesson from the ten Boom watch shop.
 3. “God is good; and everything He does is good.” Psalm 119:68
 4. The devil is always under the dominion of our Lord.
 5. Don’t adopt a “Star Wars theology.”
 6. God in Heaven laughs at the attempts of Hell to defeat God’s plan.
- B. #2. He will keep everything you give to him.
 1. **2 Timothy 1:11-12 ESV** And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that **he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.**
- C. #3. He will bring to beautiful completion the good work that He has begun in you.
 1. **Philippians 1:3-6 NIV** I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**
- D. #4. Even when you are far beyond your strength and ability (whether emotionally, physically, situationally), He promises to deliver you.
 1. **2 Corinthians 1:8-11** We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed,

we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of man.

III. The Practice that is so difficult

A. Cry out to God (v. 10)

1. For help.
2. For mercy.
3. For pity.
4. For faith to rest and trust.

B. Bring thoughts in line with truth. (v.11)

1. We are being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

C. Testify!

D. Trust!

E. Sing!

1. Our song should glorify God's ability.
2. Our song should celebrate His care.
3. Our song should reflect our trust.
 - a) Hebrews 11 promises he will deliver us through or from.
 - b) Sometimes His path takes us through trials we don't want to experience.
 - c) Stephen's Song
 - d) The Woodcutters Wisdom