**THE SONG OF THE SEA**

Sunday School Lesson 3

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Exodus 15

1/19/2025

**Lesson Review:** Last week, we looked at the crossing of the Red Sea. This was an important moment that occurred immediately prior to the Israelites entering into the wilderness. The crossing functioned as the door that led Israel into the wilderness. The Lord used the event as a way to prepare Israel for what they would endure in the wilderness. It was an intentional and needed event. The Bible shows us that there was a clear path that Israel could have taken around the Red Sea. In fact, they were already at a place that was right outside of the wilderness, and the Lord led them back to a position against the sea. The Lord’s motivation in His leading was to help Israel deal with the Egyptians. The Lord set a trap for Egypt to bring about His judgment upon them. This gave Israel the closure that they needed to move forward. He also used the crossing of the Red Sea to break Israel’s misplaced trust in Egypt. Despite the horrible living conditions, the children of Israel held on to an improper trust for the Egyptians. When their backs were against the wall at the Red Sea, they lamented ever leaving Egypt. They had developed a dependency upon Egypt. On the other hand, they had very little faith or dependency upon the Lord. He had just brought them out of Egypt using supernatural power, and they apparently didn’t think He had the power and wisdom to lead them across the Red Sea and through the wilderness. After the miracle at the Red Sea, there was no doubt Who had the power and Who deserved to be trusted. The Israelites grew in faith that day. The crossing of the Red Sea was also a way for the Lord to confirm a leader. It wasn’t just the Lord that the Israelites struggled to trust. They had very little confidence in Moses. They blamed him for leading them to the place there at the sea. They didn’t trust him to lead them where the Lord wanted them to go. Moses himself didn’t have much confidence. Thankfully, the Red Sea helped Moses gain confidence, and it helped Israel to see him as a Godly servant leader. Today, we are going to be looking at the song of the sea that was sung by Israel:

1. **THE SONG OF THE SEA WAS THE FIRST REAL MOMENT OF PRAISE FROM ISRAEL TO GOD.**
2. **Notice that this song came as a natural, heartfelt response from the children of Israel.** *Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. Psalm 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.* This song that was sung by Israel in Exodus 15 is actually the first song that we find in the Bible. It’s also the first real moment of praise from the children of Israel to God that is recorded in Scripture. When they first left Egypt after the final plague, we find nothing in the Bible that shows any type of praise from Israel. Perhaps, this was because they were stunned by what had happened, or they may have been afraid that their celebration would upset an Egyptian nation in turmoil. Alternatively, they may have just been entirely focused on leaving. Regardless of the reason, we see an inspired song now from Israel. They were genuinely praising God.
3. **Notice that their victory on their way to the wilderness had given them something personal to sing about.** *Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.* While the Red Sea crossing was terrifying for Israel, it did provide them with a great personal victory. It was this victory that we find them singing about in Exodus 15. One of the great things about the journey into and through the wilderness is that it provides us with ample material to rejoice over. They did not have to search very far to find the lyrics of their song. They simply sung about what God had done for them in delivering them from Egypt. We have our salvation songs!
4. **THE SONG OF THE SEA WAS TOTALLY FOCUSED ON THE GREATNESS OF GOD.**
5. **Notice that Israel acknowledged and boldly proclaimed the greatness of God.** *Exodus 15:6 Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. 7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.* To this point, Israel had been focused on the greatness of Egypt. They were scared of their power. In their song to the Lord, they plainly acknowledged God’s greatness. This was an important step in their wilderness journey. Oftentimes, God does things to reveal His greatness before we go into the wilderness. He does this so that we can have boldness as we follow Him in our wilderness journey.
6. **Notice that Israel finally recognized that there was no one who could possibly compare to God.** *Exodus 15:11 Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.* In addition to Israel’s proclamation of God’s greatness, they also noted that there was no comparison between anyone else and the Lord God Almighty. As we noted in previous lessons, they were greatly struggling with placing their trust in the Lord. The Red Sea crossing had changed their thinking. They realized that their previous fears were all foolish. This is an important song for the believer to sing. We must acknowledge that there is no one who is like unto our God. He is our great Provider. He is our Deliverer. He is our Strength. He is our Redeemer and Saviour. We ought to sing this song through our daily walks in the wilderness of this life.
7. **THE SONG OF THE SEA WAS A SONG THAT THE WHOLE CONGREGATION JOINED IN ON.**
8. **Notice that the women of Israel took time to express their gladness in what the Lord had done.** *Exodus 15:20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. 21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.* While the chapter starts with letting us know that all of the children of Israel sang this song unto the Lord, the Bible draws special attention to the celebration of Miriam and the other women. This tells us that there is a song for all of us to sing while we are in the wilderness. We ought to never discourage anyone from singing a song of truth and joy to the Lord. It doesn’t matter who we are or how bad things might seem. Imagine the fear that the women had previously for their families. They experienced tremendous relief through the deliverance that the Lord had provided to Israel.
9. **Notice that there were two individuals who led the way in encouraging a song to be sung unto the Lord.** *Exodus 15:1a Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, 21a And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord,* I believe it’s safe to say that Moses was the first song leader found in the Bible. After leading the Israelites across the Red Sea, he made it clear to the children of Israel that he was going to sing unto the Lord. Thus, they joined with him in song. As mentioned in the point above, Miriam also took lead among the ladies. She encouraged them to sing to the Lord. As we go through the wilderness, it’s great to have those who encourage us to sing praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord. It’s also great to be that person who helps others to find their song. Speaking to yourselves in songs!
10. **THE SONG OF THE SEA WAS A SONG THAT ISRAEL NEEDED TO CARRY WITH THEM.**
11. **Notice that Israel sang with great confidence in God’s ability to lead them into the Promised Land.** *Exodus 15:14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. 15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. 16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased. 17a Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,* In their song, the Israelites sang about the victories that they were going to have as they went into the Promised Land. They had faith and great expectation in what awaited them. It wasn’t just a song of hope. They spoke with boldness. It was the type of spirit they needed to have as they entered into the wilderness and endured its challenges.
12. **Notice that the song they sang did not last very long and did not even survive the next trial of faith.** *Exodus 15:22 So Moses brought 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. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.*It’s sad to think about this song in comparison to what happened in the wilderness. The song was so hopeful and full of faith. If they would have kept singing it, the wilderness journey would have been completely different. Instead, the song did not last very long, and it was never sung again. Just three days later, they made it to a place called Marah where they could not drink the bitter waters. Their joyful singing was quickly turned into complaints.