

Who is Like You, O Lord?

Exodus 14:1-15:21 | July 18th, 2021

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Today we start a new series: Exodus Part II. About half of our time will be introductory, setting the stage for the second half of Exodus. And the other half will be looking specifically at the song of Moses in chapter 15. Moses and the Israelites pause to worship after God delivers them out of Egypt. Feel free to send in your questions if you have them throughout our time in the Word. I'm probably not going to answer them today because we have so many different things going on. But I will respond to you directly.

Introduction to Exodus

Now, looking at the book of Exodus may excite some of you; others of you may wonder: What does Exodus have to do with me? I'm glad you ask, because Exodus serves as a window into God's character and his ultimate desire for creation. And listen: the nature and character of God, seeing him as he really is—I would argue that this is more relevant for our lives than anything else in the world! That's why the central verse I want you to keep in mind this morning is Exodus 15:11-

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

That's a rhetorical question. He's saying no one is like you, O Lord! Sometimes we need to just stop and recognize: *no one is like our God!* No one! He is unmatched in glory and worth. One of the greatest weaknesses in modern Christian culture is that it is so often me-centered! All about us. When, in fact, the God of the Bible has

something far greater for our affections, and that's Him! God Himself. As we come to Exodus, we must realize that this is not just the story of the *Hebrew people* escaping slavery and wandering in the wilderness and receiving the 10 Commandments. This is the story of *God's* deliverance of his people, of *God's POWER and MIGHT* and *PROVISION* and *HOLINESS*. This is not just a book about you or me. This is a book about GOD! And there is no greater subject we can ponder or study. And certainly, there is no greater person or being we can worship.

The Big Story

Let's set the stage for Exodus Part II. In Genesis we see the Creation of all things. We see the fall of man, and how that brought about our need for redemption! There was clearly something wrong. You have Cain murdering Abel, then the world getting worse and worse and more and more corrupt and Godless, until God sent the flood and wiped out everyone except Noah and his family. Then, yet again, *more* evil with the building of the Tower of Babel as a symbol of man's autonomy and independence from God, saying, "Haha! Look what we can do!" So then God gave them different languages and spread them all over the earth. In other words, there was a whole lot of depravity. A whole lot of sin.

But in the midst of all this depravity, God, remarkably, makes a covenant that guaranteed he would deliver his people and bless them greatly. And this covenant started with Abraham in Genesis chapter 12. It wasn't going to be fulfilled immediately. In fact, not even in Abraham's lifetime. But this covenant God made with Abraham continued with Isaac, then Jacob, and then Jacob has twelve sons, one of whom was Joseph. If you're familiar with Joseph, you know he was the one who was so hated by his brothers that they faked his death and sold him into slavery, which is how Joseph ended up in Egypt! Over time, the Hebrews became slaves in Egypt. And then, in the first half of Exodus, we see God do something

miraculous! He delivered his people, the Hebrews. Even more than just delivering them— God wanted to send a message. What was that message? There is no one else like me. Period.

Water turned into blood. God sent frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and even the killing of the firstborn of all of Egypt. Pharaoh hardened his own heart at times, God hardened Pharaoh's heart at times. We spent a whole Sunday just on that a year ago. Then, of course, we come to Exodus chapter 14, where God parted the Red Sea as the Egyptian army was chasing after the Israelites. God parted the water, the Israelites passed through on dry ground, and then the water went back into place, swallowing up the Egyptians who were in pursuit.

Who is like You, O Lord?

Let me just ask again, straight from Exodus 15:11- “Who is like our God, church?!” No one! I want us to corporately express this together repeatedly this morning. Before Moses and the Israelites start grumbling and wandering the wilderness, there is this moment where they stop and worship. They are worshipping because of all that God has done! They're just stopping to ponder and bask in the glory of God! Let's read this song they sang. I'm going to ask Kelly Jackson, who got to spend the week in Palacios at Student Camp. Thank you for volunteering. Let's read Exodus 15:1-21.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang 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.

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.

³ The Lord is a man of war;
the Lord is his name.

⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your
adversaries;
you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

¹² You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.

¹³ "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you
have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ The peoples have heard; they tremble;
pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;
trembling seizes the leaders of Moab;
all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

¹⁶ Terror and dread fall upon them;
because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone,

till your people, O Lord, pass by,
till the people pass by whom you have purchased.
¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant 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.
¹⁸ The Lord will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his
horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of
the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground
amid the sea. ²⁰ Then 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. ²¹ 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.”

I want us to pause, briefly, on each of 8 attributes we see here in
these verses. And I hope you'll join me, with every one of these
attributes, in worshipping our God. Because this isn't the God of the
Hebrews only; this is our God! Yes? So, when I say, “Say it with me.”
That's when you join me in exclaiming, “Who is like you, O Lord.”
Ok? The first attribute:

1. Triumphant (1, 4-5, 8-10, 12, 14, 17, 19-20)

Right off the bat, they say, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has
triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the
sea.” They're speaking, of course, about God's splitting of the Red
Sea and bringing it back down upon the Egyptian army. And he
repeatedly comes back to this because that's what they just
experienced! The deliverance of God, the triumph of God, in bringing
them out of Egypt in dramatic fashion.

Verses 4-5: Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The flood covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Verses 8-10: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' But You blew with your wind; and the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Over and over and over, we see them worship God because he was and is triumphant. In verses 20 and 21, Miriam the prophetess leads all the women out with tambourines and dancing. What did she sing? "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously." Church, listen closely: our God is triumphant. Yes? Say it with me: "Who is like you, O Lord?"

2. Strong (2, 13)

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." They say it again, talking about God's people: "you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode." Think about the strength that God revealed in the plagues that came upon Egypt. In your own life, you can know, church: we do not worship a small God. We worship a strong and powerful God! Listen: God is MIGHTY to SAVE! If you're wondering about whether or not God is truly able to save you, just ask the question: "Who's going to stop him!?" Say it with me: "Who is like you, O Lord?"

3. Warrior (3)

Verse 3, short and simple: "The Lord is a man of war; the LORD is his name." Yahweh is his name. This is similar to God being triumphant!

He was a warrior against the enemies of Israel. At times, he was a warrior against the Hebrews themselves. And we know from Revelation 20, ultimately, this Warrior God will triumph over Satan himself! How?! Through Jesus Christ! In fact, God the Warrior has already triumphed over Satan in Jesus Christ. Our God is a Warrior, church. Say it with me: “Who is like you, O Lord?”

4. Glorious and Majestic (6, 11)

Verse 6: “Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.” This is really talking about God’s power, which takes us back to God being strong. But he uses this word, “glorious.” Look at the beginning of verse 7: “In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries.”

And then they use the same words in verse 11, which is our theme verse for today. Let me read it again: “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

It’s difficult to describe what it means that God is glorious.

“Awesome” is another word. In fact, they use that word here in verse 11. God is worthy of our awe. He is infinitely great, what we sang today: How Great Thou Art. He is infinitely glorious and infinitely worthy. That’s our God, church. Say it with me: “Who is like you, O Lord?”

5. Angry and Holy (7, 11)

I put these two together on purpose. Look at the second half of verse 7: “You send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.” And holiness is right there in the middle of our theme verse for today, verse 11: “majestic in holiness.” I put these two different attributes together on purpose, because I don’t ever want us to mistake God’s anger with the kind of anger we often possess as humans. We get

angry most of the time because we don't get our way. God's anger is always holy and righteous. Psalm 7:11 says that God "expresses his wrath every day." Again: this wrath and anger is a holy wrath and anger. He is angry and wrathful toward evil. This should bring us GREAT comfort and joy to know that God is not unaware or indifferent about evil in the world. We may be curious about his timing, and his plan: but his character does not change. He is angry, and he is holy, because he is also just. That's our God. Say it with me: "Who is like you, O Lord?"

6. Loving (13)

Verse 13: "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed." He certainly redeemed his people out of slavery in Egypt. And now, in Christ, he has bought for us the ultimate redemption. 1 Peter 1:18-19 say this: "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." In Christ we see God's unmatched love for the world. This is our God, church. Say it with me: "Who is like you, O Lord?"

7. Terrifying (14-16)

This one might surprise you. Let me read verses 14-16 again: "The peoples 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 a stone..."

Listen: fear of God is not a bad thing. It is a GOOD thing. Even as children of God, in Christ: a healthy, reverent fear is a good, biblical

thing. Much like a bit of reverent fear for an earthly father is appropriate—reverent fear for God is infinitely more appropriate. But, especially for those who fight against God. Those who don't know Jesus, and therefore are still in their sin—the coming wrath of God is a terrifying thing! Because He is holy, and angry, and rightly so. This is our God, church. Say it with me: “Who is like you, O Lord.?”

8. Reigning (18)

Don't you love this, church? He is reigning. Verse 18: “The Lord will reign forever and ever.” This is why we see this exact song of Moses referenced in Revelation chapter 15. John the apostle has this vision of heaven, and guess what he hears? He hears God's people in heaven singing “the song of God's servant Moses and the song of the Lamb.” That's directly from Revelation 15:3. This God who reigned in the days of Genesis and Exodus is the same God who reigns today, and will reign forever in heaven. This is our God, church. Say it with me: “Who is like you, O Lord?”

Who is like you, O Lord?

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

If you think for a moment about people who are in a class of their own. Perhaps you've seen the Facebook Watch series, “Simone vs. herself.” It's about Simone Biles, and how she's pushing herself harder and harder even though no one really comes close to her as far as giftedness in the gymnastics world. With the Olympics starting this week, I can't help but think of other athletes: Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt (the fastest man in the world), Serena Williams, Tom Brady. Or musicians: Wynton Marsalis (my favorite jazz musician in

the world), Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan. Or if you had to pick one overall GOAT (greatest of all time), pulling together all genres of talent and giftedness and supremacy, maybe you'd pick Chuck Norris, obviously.

Listen: there is only one true and ultimate GOAT. It's Yahweh. God. He is triumphant, strong, a Warrior, glorious, great, majestic, angry, holy, awesome, loving, terrifying, and reigning. We're going to see even more of this great God in the rest of Exodus: He is almighty, attentive, compassionate, creator, deliverer, faithful, generous, glorious, good, holy, just, loving, merciful, provider, refuge, sovereign, unchanging, wise, worthy, and even jealous. There truly is no one like our God. Even false gods, contrived so-called gods of human imagination! None of them can even compare, even if they did exist! Our God is unmatched in glory and unmatched in worth. He truly is in a class by himself.

This great God is the One who would provide complete and absolute reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Just as these Hebrews are looking back at the Red Sea, seeing the complete destruction of their enemies. The complete undoing of their slavery. We, too, look back to the Cross and see the complete destruction of our enemy: sin itself. We see the complete undoing of our spiritual slavery. For those of us who repent and put our full trust in Christ alone, God has done the undoable. He has completed the impossible. You and I have been made whole. You and I have been redeemed.

That's our God! Say it with me one last time:
"Who is like you, O Lord?"



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