



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 13:17-17:16
- Isaiah 43:1-3
- Hebrews 11:24-29; 12:23-24
- Psalm 106:6-12; 78:12-17;
136:10-16

A HEART OF & FOR WORSHIP

- ...as a Response
- ...for the Redeemed
- ...from Revelation
- ...as Recognition
- Central to the Testaments

“Wonderful, Merciful, Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend, who would have thought that Lamb could rescue the souls of Man?” I remember those lyrics as if yesterday was the first time I heard them. I recall having a conversation with an older gentleman the day before I went to Church for the first time, the day those words would inject life into my dry bones.

I did not know what to expect, but one thing was clear in my mind; I was not leaving Church without having an encounter with God. When the worship began, I was confused. Having come from a Catholic background, this was completely different. I had no experience with a style of worship that invited this level of

participation. Singing along with the music did something to me that day. I was awestruck by the lyrics; they pierced my heart!

The words brought tears to my eyes. “Wonderful, Merciful, Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend, who would have thought that Lamb could rescue the souls of Man?” Teardrops ran down my face as the weight lifted, as if a ton of bricks were removed from my chest.

My journey as a Believer began that day, and that song still resonates with me. Worship is not what you might think, and many people reduce it to singing in a Church Sanctuary. To limit worship to an event performed once or twice a week at Church, is to short change yourself of a much more vibrant walk with Yahweh.

Having a proper understanding of what constitutes true Worship is paramount to every Believer. The best description of Worship I’ve ever found is from William Temple. “Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose—all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable.”

“Wonderful, Merciful, Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend, who would have thought that Lamb could rescue the souls of

Man?" That is what happened to me that day and that is what has continued ever since!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"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."
Exodus 15:1 ESV

"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

"...and to the **assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven**, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, **and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**" Hebrews 12:23-24 ESV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.** He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, **for he was looking to the reward. By faith he**

left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured **as seeing him who is invisible**. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. **By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land**, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned." Hebrews 11:24-29 ESV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This reading tells the adventures of the Israelites as they leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea, receive miraculous provision in the wilderness and face their first battle. You can see past teachings on this portion here: [Hard-Pressed on Every Side](#) & [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)

Exodus 13

2. Right from the start we see Yahweh's strategy. He sends the people out Egypt in a direction away from the Philistines even though that is not the shorter path. He does so for two reasons:
 - (a) First, so they don't immediately panic by facing opposition.
 - (b) Second, so He can later hem them in against the sea.
 - (c) Why? So He can show them His mighty power as He wrecks their enemies right in front of them.

3. In a prophetic moment, “Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he [Joseph] had placed the children of Israel under **solemn oath [in Genesis 50:25]**, saying, *“God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.”*
Exodus 13:19
4. Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel day and night.

Exodus 14

5. Yahweh tells them to camp at the shore of the Red Sea as He plans to inspire Pharaoh to chase them, so He can “gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* Yahweh.”
6. So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea.
7. **[COMPLAINT #1: FEAR]** The people lose heart and are afraid and complain. *“Did you just take us out here to die; we would have been happier just staying in Egypt!”*
8. Moses then proclaims this classic line of Scripture *“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see*

today, you shall see again no more forever. Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

9. The children of Israel are told to go forward. Moses will touch the waters and they will divide so the people can pass over on dry ground.
10. To give the people time, Yahweh puts a pillar between Israel and Egyptians, and notice this prophetic picture. It was a **cloud and darkness** to the one, and it **gave light by night to the other**. It held back the Egyptians all night.
11. The children of Israel crossed on the dry ground.
12. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.
13. As they pursued, Yahweh troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, *“Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”*
14. Then Yahweh has Moses stretch out his hand and the sea closes over the Egyptians and not one of them survived.
15. Israel saw Yahweh’s great work, feared Him and believed His servant Moses.

Exodus 15

16. Then we have The Song of Moses which extols Yahweh’s virtues as it recounts the testimony of deliverance. It includes this

amazingly prophetic verse. (Ex. 15:17) *“You will bring them in and plant them **in the mountain of Your inheritance**, in the place, O Yahweh, which You have made for **Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O Yahweh**, which Your hands have established.”*

17. Then we have The Song of Miriam *“Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!”*
18. Then, THREE DAY’S JOURNEY into the wilderness they come up against a water shortage as the water available is not pure. [Please remember that Moses demanded that Pharaoh let the people go a three days’ journey into the wilderness to worship Yahweh and have a feast. And now we are at that exact moment. And what does Yahweh have planned?
19. **[COMPLAINT #2: THIRST]** And the people complained against Moses, saying, *“What shall we drink?”* So Moses interceded, and Yahweh showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made pure.
20. HERE IS THE PIVOT POINT OF THE THREE DAYS’ JOURNEY: There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, *“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of*

the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”

Exodus 16

21. **[COMPLAINT #3: HUNGER]** 45 days into their journey the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, *“Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”*
22. Yahweh then rains bread from heaven and the people gather their daily need (daily bread). Why one day at a time? To test whether the people will walk in His laws or not. On the sixth day gather double so they have no need to gather on the Sabbath.
23. But they still want meat, bread is not enough! Moses says, *“Listen, you are really complaining against Yahweh and He hears you. He will give you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full.”*
24. So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning when the layer of dew lifted, there was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground (manna). Let every man gather it according to each one’s need.

25. If anyone gathered more than needed and left it until morning, it bred worms and stank.
26. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much bread because on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there was none. The Sabbath rest is holy to Yahweh. Prepare what you need today and the remains may be kept until morning and it will not rot.
27. Some people did not trust, so went out on the Sabbath to gather manna anyway and they found none. The Sabbath is like a famine that you need to provide for in advance (like Joseph).
28. This is where they are told to collect some manna and store it in a pot to be kept for their generations, that they may see the bread with which Yahweh used to feed them in the wilderness when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.
29. Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

Exodus 17

30. **[COMPLAINT #4 THIRST AGAIN]** They arrive next in Rephidim; but there was no water and they thirsted and complained against Moses, and said, *“Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”*

31. Moses cries out to Yahweh for help and he is instructed to strike a rock in Horeb with the Rod in which he struck the Nile, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. [Forty years later this will happen again and Moses is told to speak to the Rock instead of striking it. He does not obey and instead strikes the rock twice. Water does pour forth but the consequences to Moses for his disobedience are severe. [See Numbers 20:7-13]
32. The final piece of this week's portion is Israel's first battle in the wilderness against the Amalekites.
33. Joshua is called to lead the men against Amalek. As the battle rages, as long as Moses raises his hands Israel prevailed.
34. As Moses' hands become heavy, Aaron and Hur support him on each side. His hands remained steady until the going down of the sun and Joshua defeated Amalek.
35. Yahweh tells Moses to memorialize Amalek's defeat in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, and that He will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

WORSHIP AS A RESPONSE

1. **Worship is a *response* to God's sovereignty and might.**
 - A. **The heart of the Believer is moved to worship Yahweh because of His mighty works**

- (1) **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. Exodus 15:1 ESV
- (a) Moses, having been in the trenches, knew first hand what it took for the children of Israel to find themselves in, Exodus 15, on the other side of the Red Sea.
 - (b) Obviously, no amount of human efforts could accomplish the miraculous events surrounding their exodus.
 - (c) From the very moment of the burning bush experience Moses records in Exodus 4, to the parting of the Red Sea, and everything in between, Yahweh’s power is on display,
- (2) **By faith Moses**, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, **for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt**, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured **as seeing him who is invisible**. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the

firstborn might not touch them. ***By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land***, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

Hebrews 11:24-29 ESV

- (a) In response to the mighty deeds performed by Yahweh, Moses is moved in his heart to write a song for the children of Israel to exalt Yahweh's invisible powers through faith.

B. We too respond the same way

- (1) ...and to the ***assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven***, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, ***and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel***. Hebrews 12:23-24
ESV

- (a) We are brought to worship Yahweh as a response of the same deliverance that the children of Israel lived through. We too have been delivered from "Egypt" if, indeed, the Blood of the Firstborn is on the doorpost of our hearts.
- (b) In the likeness of the faith Moses exercised in keeping the Passover by sprinkling the Blood of the lamb, so the Destroyer would not touch the firstborn, if you are a

born again believer, you as well have sprinkled the Blood of the Lamb on the doorpost of your hearts and, thereby, you have become a part of the Church of the firstborn

WORSHIP FOR THE REDEEMED

2. **Worship is for the *Redeemed!***

A. **Christo-centric Themes**

- (1) But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ***“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, *the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.* I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Isaiah 43:1-3 ESV***
 - (a) In the Christo-centric themes we find throughout the Bible, there is no shortage of passages in which we read about Yahweh’s redemption of His people and His provision as a Savior.

- (b) Having recognized your need of a Savior, knowing His plan of Salvation includes everyone who has been **redeemed**, should cause all of us to want to exalt His name in Worship!
- (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**. Exodus 15:2
ESV
- (a) We Worship Yahweh because He has redeemed us!
- (b) What is the concept of redemption?
- (c) In Christian terms, the concept of redemption deals directly with Yahweh's involvement in removing His children from the grasps of sin, causing the person to recognize Yahweh's power, and in doing so, birth a believer.

B. David Remembered

- (1) Both we and our **fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness**. Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Yet **he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power**. He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became

dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. ***So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.*** And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. ***Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.*** Psalm 106:6-12

- (a) A ***problem in Worship*** arises when those who have been redeemed forget Yahweh's wondrous works and somehow twist his redemptions as if Yahweh is to be used as a genie. Yahweh owes no one!
- (2) In the sight of their fathers ***he performed wonders in the land of Egypt***, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers. ***Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.*** Psalm 78:12-17 ESV
- (3) to him who ***struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever***; and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;

with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever; ***to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever; and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever; but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures*** forever;

Psalm 136:10-16 ESV

- (a) As the Psalmist wrote, Yahweh's reasoning for doing His wondrous works is because of His steadfast love.
- (b) Yahweh does not owe the believer anything! It is the Believer who owes Yahweh everything.
- (c) In recognition of His ***redemptive*** work, a true Heart of Worship should be born!
- (d) That Heart of Worship is not just related to singing a few hymns prior to a Church service. It is the totality and fullness of the life of the Believer.

C. William Temple

- (1) William Temple probably said it best– *“Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to*

his purpose--all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable."

- (a) How is your Worship of Yahweh in comparison to Temple's description?
- (b) Do you find it difficult to submit all of your nature to Him?
- (c) Is your conscience quickened by His holiness?
- (d) Is your mind nourished by His Truth?
- (e) How about your imagination, is it purified?
- (f)the list of questions go on and on!

WORSHIP FROM REVELATION

3. **Worship is a *Revelation* of who Yahweh is in contrast to who we are.**

A. **Yahweh is a *man of war!***

(1) The LORD is a ***man of war***; the LORD is his name. Exodus 15:3

- (a) We, in contrast, are pacifist. We don't like confrontations for many different reasons. One of, and not the least of which is that many people like pleasing others, rather than pleasing God. This does not mean we are to walk around making enemies of people, of course not! It does mean, however, that we have a God-given

mandate to stand for truth, and ***to speak that truth in love.***

- (b) Undoubtedly, Yahweh is not trying to win a popularity contest. He is not looking for those who “like” Him; He is not looking for those who “enjoy” His precepts; He is not looking for those who are in need of social acceptance!
- (c) Yahweh is not moved by passions!

B. Yahweh is a righteous judge...

- (1) Yahweh is a righteous judge and as such He administers the proper amount of justice upon those who will not submit to His authority. Even to the extent of total destruction and annihilation. Hence, the reason the Bible tells us “***vengeance is mine*** says the LORD!”
 - (a) What if we were the ones to hand out the judgment? First and foremost, we are not righteous of ourselves. Second, being that we are not all-knowing, how then could we know what amount of ***vengeance*** is the correct amount of punishment for the offense?
 - (b) We are to trust that Yahweh is, indeed, the one who will make ALL things new! The One who will make anything ***we’ve had eaten away*** by the locust be restored in His

perfect time, even if that time is past our earthly lifetime.

C. Proper Revelation of who Yahweh is...

- (1) Whether we like it or not in order to properly understand Worship, we need a proper Revelation of who Yahweh is.
 - (a) We can't ,or should not, attempt to Worship a God whose character we don't properly understand.
 - (b) Too many Worship songs in today's contemporary Christian music speak of a god not in line with Scriptures.
 - (c) ...A god who is nothing more than a ***lonely, helpless, and sad spiritual being who is almost desperate for followers.***
 - (d) ...A god who will risk his throne for the sake of a lost sinner?
- (2) Reality check!
 - (a) Realistically speaking, these Worship songs are an affront to Yahweh's character.
 - (b) They demean the God of the Bible.
 - (c) They minimize hideousness of sinful living.
 - (d) They water-down the Church as the pews are filled with no less than covert wolves in sheep's clothing, walking around telling other people how much they loved God

because he (their version of a deity) is ***OK with how they are living and are saved to sin freely? (Not just a lie, but a huge contradiction in terms)***

WORSHIP AS RECOGNITION

4. **Worship is for those who *Recognize God's Majesty!***

A. **Who is like you, O LORD?**

- (1) ***In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;*** you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. 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.' You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ***“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;*** you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. Exodus 15:7-13 ESV

- (a) Yahweh is not walking around flooding or destroying people arbitrarily!
 - (b) Everything Yahweh does, as it relates to overthrowing His adversaries, is related to ***the greatness of His majesty!***
- (2) Barely Sufficient
- (a) Moses uses ***anthropomorphisms*** (describing God in human terms or with human behaviors) to describe the powers Yahweh uses to overthrow them. In reality, those words barely describe the fullness of His powers and strengths, but put them in a language we can understand. There is no comparison, hence the reason Moses wrote, “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?”
 - (b) I ask you, Who is like Yahweh among ***your*** gods?
 - (c) Yes! I said that, “***YOUR*** gods!”
 - (d) It’s very possible that as you are attempting to Worship Yahweh, there are other “gods” lobbying for your allegiance. And if you are dabbling with anything that is drawing you away from Him, ***you are flat out in trouble!***

SUMMARY

5. Closing

A. Central to the Testaments

- (1) As we discussed in the opening statements of our time together. The events surrounding the Exodus are the central piece in the Old Testament just like the Cross of Christ is the central piece in the New Testament.
- (2) For the Believer in the Old Testament, Yahweh's character was in full display during the exodus of the Children of Israel in the same way that His character was in full display through the events of the Cross.
- (3) Moses wrote his song because of the wondrous works Yahweh performed in order to release the Children of Israel from the grasps of Pharaoh.
- (4) With each and every plague that Yahweh brought upon Egypt, Moses' faith was being built higher and higher. At the end of the succession of events, Moses recognized that Yahweh's plan had unfolded exactly the way Yahweh had promised.
- (5) It's simple; what Yahweh asked Moses to tell Pharaoh and Yahweh's follow-through when Pharaoh disobeyed, were in complete alignment. This strengthened Moses' faith.

- (6) It is with the same heart and mind we need to accept Yahweh's promise for His people today; accepting His plan will bring your heart to a place of a "lifestyle of Worship", not just "to Worship".
- (7) A lifestyle of Worship is one in which the lifestyle itself is the ***"submission of our nature to God and the surrender of will to His love."***
- (8) By living life this way, you will find yourself in constant Worship of your Creator, instead of thinking about being in a Church setting and having to wait until that day to sing a few songs.
- (9) Of course, singing to God is born out of the revelation of who He is and can certainly be expressed in song the same way Moses did.
- (10) In the same way, our lives need to be a direct representation of the songs we sing, otherwise we live a life filled with contradictions which will ultimately lead us to discontent.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. From where does authentic worship emerge?

- A. What inspired the Song of Moses in Exodus 15?
- B. How does the writer of Hebrews connect Moses' decisions with Christ in Hebrews 11:24-29?
- C. How does Hebrews 12:23-24 connect Christians with the first Passover?

2. The Scriptures are replete with Christo-centric Themes...

- A. How does Isaiah 43:1-3 and the Song of Moses relate to Christian worship and Christian salvation?

3. What does David teach us about remembering our roots in Psalm 106:6-12; 78:12-17; 136:10-16?

- A. How does this relate to authentic worship?
- B. How is this reflected in the words of William Temple in our study?

4. Why is it essential that we know God's character if we are to worship Him?

- A. How does modern worship music often reflect an ignorance of who Yahweh is?
- B. How does modern worship music, at times, minimize sin or water-down the Scriptures?

5. Why is worship reserved for only those who recognize God's majesty?

- A. How can we recognize His majesty?
- B. What is an anthropomorphism?
- C. Why are human words insufficient to describe God?
- D. In Exodus 15:7-13, what question best affirms that there are no words that give justice to who Yahweh is?
- E. What is a lifestyle of worship?

6. How are the events surrounding the Exodus, the Old Testament equivalent to the Cross of Christ?