

Notes for Talk for 10 January. Exodus 15 – Tony Pearce

Talk – **Exodus 15 / 1 Cor 10** – Examples from OT / Exodus for our edification as believers. 'The Lord knows the way through the wilderness.'

Last time Passover and Exodus. Types of salvation in Jesus.

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ²all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ ... Now ⁵all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

First Moses then Miriam and the women singing to the Lord song we just sang.

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

²The Lord *is* my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

³The Lord *is* a man of war; The Lord *is* His name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.

⁶"Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

⁷And in the greatness of Your excellence

You have overthrown those who rose against You;

You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.

⁸And with the blast of Your nostrils the waters were gathered together;

The floods stood upright like a heap;

The depths ⁹congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them.

I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

¹⁰You 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, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

¹²You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them.

¹³You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided *them* in Your strength to Your holy habitation.

¹⁴"The people will hear *and* be afraid;

Sorrow ¹⁵will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

¹⁶Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till the people pass over whom You have purchased.

¹⁷You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, *In* the place, O Lord, *which* You have made for Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, *which* Your hands have established.

¹⁸ “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry *land* in the midst of the sea.

The Song of Miriam

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. ²¹ And Miriam answered them:

“Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!”

Bitter Waters Made Sweet

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called ^[d]Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ^[e]ordinance for them, and there He tested them, ²⁶ 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.”

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there *were* twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

First song recorded in the Bible. Praise to God for deliverance from slavery in Egypt, Pharaoh’s army.

Exodus as a type of our deliverance from slavery to sin, Pharaoh’s army pursues to take them back to slavery. Satan’s power wanting to enslave us and take us back.

Power in praise / worship to God to give us the victory. Note Moses not mentioned – only God. Praise is way of turning our eyes away from the human element onto the Lord, away from our problems onto Him, away from the present troubles onto the eternal one. Praise God for who He is, what He has done and what He is going to do. Show our faith in Him as our Creator, Redeemer and Judge. Vital in bringing us through the wilderness.

Find ourselves in a kind of prison with lockdown. Can’t stop us praising the Lord. Paul and Silas singing to the Lord in [Acts 16.25](#)

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. ³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Ephesians 5

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People turning to drink to get through lockdown. Medication – anti-depressants. Better to turn to the Lord and give Him praise and glory. Exodus praise. Lord my strength and salvation / Yeshua. Adonai li lishuah = Lord is to me Yeshua / salvation. We can praise God for salvation, whatever our circumstances.

לִי לִישׁוּעָה

V 3. Lord is a Man of war. Peacemakers – yes but triumph over Pharaoh and his armies - picture of spiritual war around us. Satan and his demons. We're in a spiritual war which we can't win on our own, but in the strength of the Lord as a 'man of war' on our side we can. **Ephesians 6.**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

War over every Christian. Satan wants to take you back into captivity. Prevent you being effective for the Lord. Praising God in all circumstances and putting on the armour of God and standing against him gives us the victory in Jesus.

In the end time Jesus will return with all power to make war with the beast and his armies. As with Pharaoh and his armies this will be a literal physical war in which the armies of antichrist will be utterly routed and defeated by the Lord as they gather for Armageddon, bringing in the Millennial reign of the Messiah.

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the

winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.**

The Beast and His Armies Defeated

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the \square supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, \square free and slave, both small and great."

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Verse 19 purpose of this war from Satan's side is to make war against Him who sat on the horse (Jesus) and his army (us). Will result in total defeat for him.

V 6 Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power.

Right hand is associated with the power of the Lord. Also associated with the Messiah. **Psalm 80**. Israel in distress calls on the Lord to send the man of your right hand. Messiah.

Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. ¹⁸ Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. ¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

Jesus at the right hand of God.

Daniel 7

I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.

Jesus quotes this passage at his trial and refers it to Himself

But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ / Messiah, the Son of God!"

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! ⁶⁶ What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”

They recognise the implication of Jesus claiming to be sitting at the right hand of power coming in the clouds of glory. Reference to **Daniel**. **Psalm 80** Son of Man, man of your right hand. Condemn him to death on this basis for blasphemy. But He will come in this way.

V 6 b Your right hand has dashed the enemy in pieces. When it comes to a contest between the Lord and the enemy it is no contest. – **v 7-10**. Man of your right hand = Messiah, Son of Man = Yeshua

V 11 Who is like unto you *mi kamocho*. Prayer of synagogue service. Asserting uniqueness of God.

מִי־כַמְּכָה בְּאֵלִים יְהוָה
מִי־כַמְּכָה נֹאדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ
נֹרָא תִהְיֶה עֹשֶׂה פֶלֶא

*Mi kamocho ba-elim Adonai
Mi kamocho nedar ba-kodesh
Nora tehillot oseh fele oseh fele*

Who is like You O Lord among the gods?
Who is like you, Lord there is none else
You are awesome in praise, doing wonders O Lord
Who is like thee O Lord.

Basic proposition of Hebrew Bible. There is none like the Lord / Yahweh / God of Israel. Creator, Redeemer, Judge of all the earth. Unique entirely different from idols of nations. Cannot be mixed with them. So too we believe. The Psalmists also ask the same question.

David, praying for deliverance from his enemies, sang, “**LORD, who is like You [mi kamocho], who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him?**” (Psalm 35:10). Psalm 71 declares, “**For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You [mi kamocho]?**” (Psalm 71:19).

“**O LORD God of hosts, who is like You [mi kamocho], O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You**” (Psalm 89:8).

The question “who is like you” had already been answered by God Himself. He had told Pharaoh that he and his people would experience something “*so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth*” (**Exodus 9:14**). Now Pharaoh and his army were gone. **Mi Kamocho** has an answer: there is no one.

“There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God” (Psalm 86:8-10).

“There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name ... There is none like You” (Jeremiah 10:6,7).

Even Yahweh Himself declares this to be true:

“Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me” (Isaiah 46:9).

Central proposition of Bible – God is like no other – no other God who can save us. God of Bible is utterly different from gods of nations (but idols). He is Creator God, He is able to intervene in His creation, act on behalf of his people for salvation and in judgement on His enemies. Following verses statement of faith that He will complete the work and bring them into the Promised Land.

You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided *them* in Your strength to Your holy habitation.

¹⁴ “The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow^[c] will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

¹⁶ Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till the people pass over whom You have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O Lord, *which* You have made for Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, *which* Your hands have established.

¹⁸ “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry *land* in the midst of the sea.

God of Israel / Yahweh / Jehovah revealed in **Tenach / OT**, is revealed in **NT** in person in Yeshua the Messiah. He has won the great victory over Satan and demon powers at the cross. When we put our trust in Him He is on our side, therefore we are on the victory side. Jesus is unique, the only begotten Son of God, our Redeemer, Saviour and coming King and Judge. He has defeated Satan and demon powers at the cross. We identify with Him in our commitment to Him / baptism / Red sea parallel. By faith we believe that He is able to bring us to our Promised Land with Him forever.

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out

of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
Colossians 2.11-15.

Who is like You doing wonders? God is able to do signs and wonders at all times. This is true all the time. However, there are certain times in history when God moves in some visible form doing abundant and powerful signs and wonders, intervening in space and time here on earth. As a result of these events there is a Significant change in how God relates to humans. 5 past. Creation, Fall, Flood, Exodus, Messiah Jesus. 2 more to come – 2nd Coming, End of the World / new heavens and new earth.

All these major interventions came with a change in the dispensation / age. Creation, Fall, Flood, Exodus – Sinai – Law / Torah – God’s way of government from Moses to Messiah. Then came the time of signs and wonders in the coming of Messiah – miracles of Jesus, death and resurrection, Holy Spirit, birth of true church. From first to second coming of Messiah this is the rule of God / way of salvation on earth through the Gospel and the born-again church. All these changes came with great signs and wonders in which God brought judgment on sin and deliverance for His people and brought in a new dispensation. We are now in the dispensation of the Messiah Yeshua – began with events of cross, resurrection, ascension, gift of Holy Spirit, birth of Church. Big intervention of God with miracles / signs and wonders. Will end with events of 2nd coming.

We are approaching the end of this dispensation. Why we are seeing so many things happening which line up with Bible prophecy. The world is about to see a huge intervention on earth of God doing great signs and wonders. The biggest yet. The 2nd coming of Messiah. Rapture of Church, events of tribulation / **Book of Revelation**, 2nd coming to earth, Millennial reign of Christ on earth. Preceded by time of great apostasy and wickedness, people mocking and disbelieving God. World crisis with no way out, then God intervenes.

Revelation 16 – song of Moses and the Lamb, like the song of **Exodus 15** - Revelation judgements are like the plagues of Egypt. On antichrist, beast. Plagues of Egypt judgement on gods of Egypt (which are no gods, but demons). Judgements of Revelation on gods of our age (which are no gods but demons).

Exodus 15 first song in Bible. Revelation 16 last song. Lord’s victory and His ultimate victory over the enemy and deliverance of the saints. Has similarity to **Exodus 15**. Uniqueness of God. Power over enemy. Victory to His people. To be praised and worshipped.

And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. ³They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

**“Great and marvellous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty!
Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!
⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You,
For Your judgments have been manifested.”**

Today we see the gathering gloom of our time. Many thinking God has forgotten us. But He has not. He is biding His time and soon He will show Himself in power and deliver His people and bring judgement on His enemies. We must decide which side we are on.

Meantime we have to make our way through the wilderness of this world. We should finish this chapter because it brings us down to earth with the first trial of the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea. A parallel with our experience.

Bitter Waters Made Sweet

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called ^[d]Marah. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 25 So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ^[e]ordinance for them, and there He tested them, 26 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."

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

3 days in the wilderness. They had just seen the most spectacular miracle of God saving them from Pharaoh and his army. But now the reality of the situation was that they found themselves with no home, no food, no water. They did not know where they were or where they were going. Started to grumble. No water. Maximum a person can go without water before danger of death sets in is 3 days. Then they come to a place where there is water. Answer? But the water is Marah / bitter. They cannot drink it. Disappointment, fear. No water, no life. Sometimes we find that after great experience of the Lord there comes the experience of bitterness, something bad happens. Can we go on? Is all lost? This lockdown and the present situation in London and the world speak of a really bitter experience for the world and for us. Can we go on? Disillusion. People complain to Moses.

If God has gone to so much trouble to get Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea and save them from Pharaoh's army, is He going to let them die of thirst in the wilderness a few days later? God is able not only to save us but also to keep us. Big lesson of Israel's wilderness experience. He is able to turn the bitter water of Marah into sweet water they can drink and so sustain them in their journey. He is able to turn our bitter experience into something sweet which is able to sustain us on our spiritual journey. Moses cries out to the Lord. We too must cry out to the Lord. One of the things missing in this CV crisis is any call to prayer and to seek God. To ask God for mercy from judgement and disease and the plague which is so often in the Bible a sign of God's judgment. What does God tell Moses to do? To take a tree and put it in the bitter water and it will make them sweet. Why the tree?

In his work on the **Exodus** journey, 'A way through the wilderness' Jamie Buckingham explains how this may have worked. The chemicals in the sap of the broken limb of the tree

drew the mineral content of the bitter water down to the bottom of the pools, and left only good water on top. He further speculates that even though the waters were now drinkable, there was still a significant magnesium and calcium content in the water. The laxative effect of this would clean out the digestive systems of the children of Israel, cleansing them of common Egyptian ailments such as amoebic dysentery and bilharzia, a weakening disease common among Egyptians. In addition, calcium and magnesium together form the basis of a drug called dolomite – used by some athletes as a performance enhancer in hot weather conditions. At Marah, God provided the right medicine to both clean out their systems, and prepare them for a long, hot march to Sinai.

Another explanation is that the tree represents the cross.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The curse of the law does not mean that God is cursing the law – He gave the law, the curse = what happens to us because we fail to keep the law.

**‘Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.’
“And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’” Deuteronomy 27.26.**

In this case we are all cursed because we all fail to observe the words of the law = sin. It is this curse that makes the bitterness of life and the heavy burden which all of us bear and which is leading inexorably to our death. The bitter water speaks of the curse which is on all human endeavour and leads to death because of sin. The answer is the cross, the tree, where Jesus died for our sins and through which we are saved from the bitterness of sin and death. As we go through the wilderness of this world and face its trials and disappointments and difficulties (and ultimately death if Jesus does not come first), we need to come to the cross, to put Jesus the Messiah crucified into the bitter water of this world’s sin and failure and of our own sin and failure and let Him turn our bitterness to sweetness through the redeeming work of the cross. Put on the new person in Jesus changing us from the person we were full of bitterness and anger, of broken relationships and strife, to a people through whom God can work who have tasted the grace of God in newness of life in Jesus.

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled. Hebrews 12.14-15.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.³² And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 5.30-32.

In this chapter in **Exodus** God promises healing and wholeness to Israel. None of the diseases of Egypt. Literal in physical healing, in the Torah commands which include higher standards of cleanliness and well-being in our behaviour. **NT** prayer of faith to save the sick. **James 5**. Also spiritual healing in giving us newness of life in Jesus.

And so, they came to Elim, a place of refreshment, food and water and rest for their souls.

Jesus said, Come to Me, all *you* who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11.28-29