

Good morning church -

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Our text today will be Exodus 15.

Question, what do the following films have in common?

Star Wars

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

Jaws

Jurassic Park

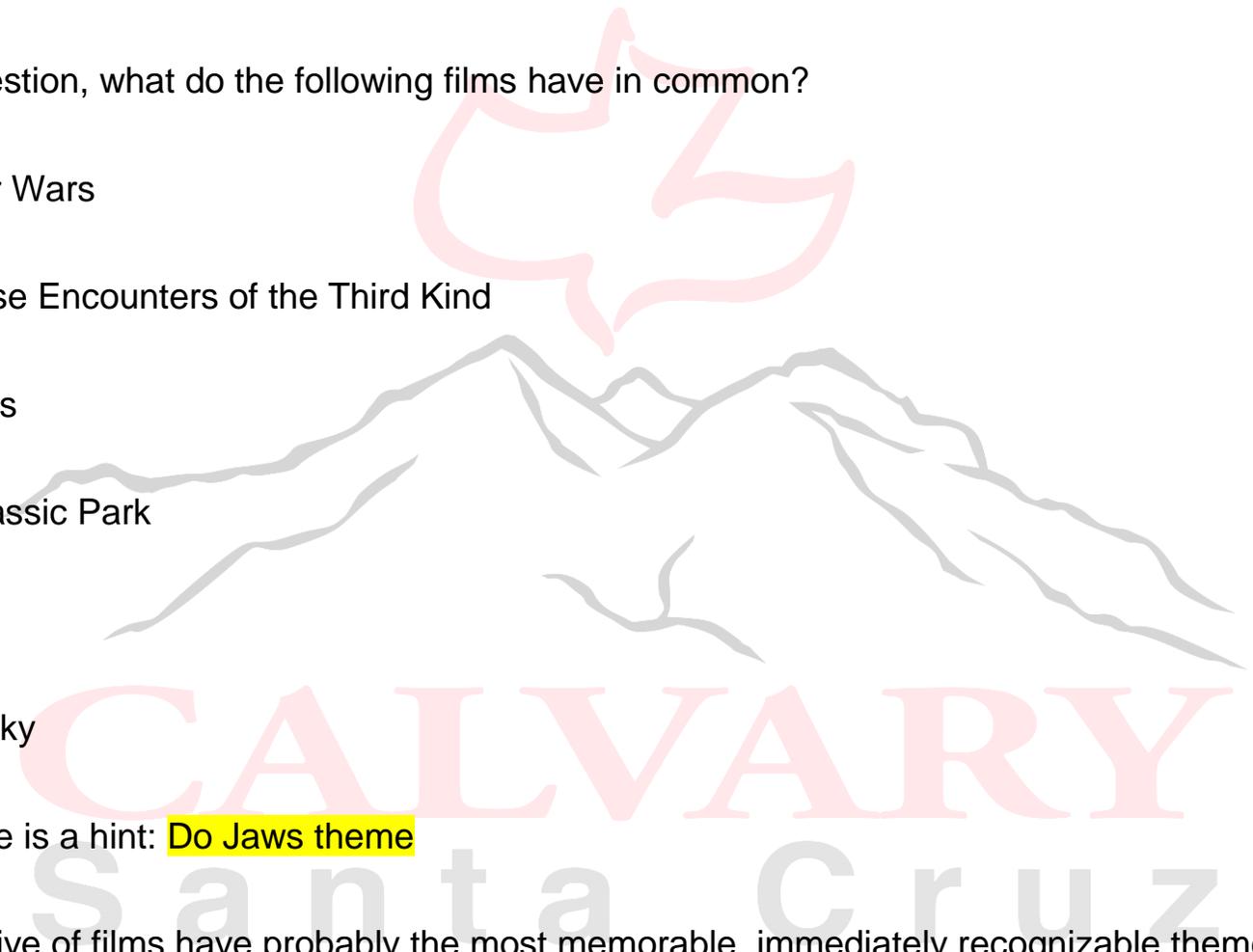
E.T.

Rocky

Here is a hint: **Do Jaws theme**

All five of films have probably the most memorable, immediately recognizable theme music of all time.

After hearing a few bars, we are all transported by the music into the atmosphere of the film.



We hear the theme for Rocky, we immediately picture Sylvester Stallone doing one handed push-ups or running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

We hear the E.T theme; we immediately picture Elliot and E.T. on the bicycle as they flee the government officials.

When we hear the Jaws theme – someone is about to be lunch.

In our text this morning, we will come across the first song in the scriptures.

It is the praise song that commemorated and celebrated the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea.

It is a praise song of God's deliverance.

The Song of Moses was to be their theme song as they made their way to the Promised Land.

Unfortunately, as we will see by the end of the chapter as well as in the weeks ahead – the Children of Israel would start to sing a totally different tune.

One minute they were praising the Lord with their songs; the next, they were grumbling.

They sang one song in time of victory and a different one in time of adversity.

And if we are honest with ourselves, we will find that we tend to do the same thing.

Let's pray...

In our study last week, we found that the Children of Israel were trapped.

They were in a narrow canyon with the Red Sea on one side and the Egyptian chariots on the other side.

And God proceeds to part the Red Sea and provides a way of escape for them.

The Children of Israel walk across on dry land and as the Egyptian army follows them; God collapses the Red Sea on top of them.

So now as they are standing on the eastern shore of the Red Sea, as they are looking back at where the Egyptian army used to be – Moses leads the people in a song.

In case anyone is wondering – Moses was not a one hit wonder – in addition to the song here in our text, Psalm 90 is attributed to him as well as the song he writes toward the end of his life in Deuteronomy 32.

So he was a 3 hit wonder.

[Exo 15:1-27 NKJV] 1 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! 2 The 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.

As I mentioned earlier, this is the first song recorded in scripture – but it is also the last song recorded in scriptures.

[Rev 15:1-4 NKJV] 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2 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. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous [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."

This song of Moses is going to be sung (in the future) by the Tribulation Saints in heaven as they have been given victory over the beast.

I had you make a note that they sang this song to the Lord.

It was not a song about the Lord – It is a song To the Lord.

Church – that is what we as believers do when we come together and worship Him in song.

We just don't sing songs about Him.

We sing songs to Him.

Sometimes, I will hear people say – I really don't like that worship song – well guess what, it was never intended for your ears, it was intended for God's ears.

We sing to an Audience of One.

I had you also make a note where they declare that He has become my salvation.

He is not only the one who gives me strength, but He has now saved me as well.

For the Israelites, they had just watched God single-handedly save them from the sure death of the Egyptian army.

The word that is used here for salvation is the word for deliverance.

God delivered them from the chariots of the Egyptian army.

God delivered them from the false gods in Egypt

God delivered them from their bondage in Egypt.

In the same way, God delivers us from sin.

But, He wants to do more than to deliver us from sin. He wants to take us out of Egypt.

He wants to save us.

[Col 1:13-14 NKJV] 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed [us] into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

3 The LORD [is] a man of war; The LORD [is] His name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The 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.

As the Children of Israel were trapped – God delivered them – he displayed His power as He wiped out the Egyptian chariots before their sight.

However, God does not respond to all of our circumstances as a man of war.

When someone has hurt us – we want God to present His power in the same way.

Sometimes, He chooses to present His power as the Prince of Peace.

And we get upset with Him – Why hasn't He parted the Red Sea yet?

What is taking so long?

Instead of being upset that He isn't a man of war, embrace the way He is manifesting Himself to us.

When God doesn't part the waters you want to walk through, He is doing something else; we need to place our trust in Him.

7 And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.

A by-stander would have concluded that Egypt was against Israel.

But in positioning themselves against God's people, their real aggression was against God.

After using His people to give Pharaoh ten chances to repent, God released His wrath at the Red Sea.

God's wrath is compared to fire consuming dry stubble. It's a metaphor within a metaphor. God's wrath is a consuming fire, but it manifested itself in this instance as the Red Sea collapsing upon the Egyptian army.

8 And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths 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 be satisfied on 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.

Once again, they acknowledge that God was sovereign over their deliverance.

God used a strong east wind that Moses poetically likened to the Lord breathing heavy from His nostrils.

11 "Who [is] like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who [is] like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them. 13 You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided [them] in Your strength To Your holy habitation.

The Children of Israel were in bondage for over 400 years in Egypt

Many of them were familiar with false gods in Egypt.

As we went through the plagues, I brought up many of the Egyptian gods that the judgments were directed to.

However, just because the Children of Israel have been delivered from Egypt – it doesn't mean that they are going to stop worshipping false gods.

Because they will have their share of false gods in the Promised Land.

The Baal, the Moloch's –

So here, they are being reminded that Yahweh is the One true God, that He is all powerful.

These words were for Israel, but they capture something that is true for every believer: We've been redeemed, and are guided in His strength by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and have a home waiting for us in Heaven.

We might not walk exactly as planned, since we are still "Prone to wander, Prone to leave the God I love." But His "streams of mercy, never ceasing," will get us home.

14 "The people will hear [and] be afraid; Sorrow 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.

This generation of the Children of Israel refuses to go into the Promised Land because they were afraid.

However, when we read the book of Joshua, Rahab the harlot tells the spies that it was the Canaanites that were trembling with fear – that they did not have the heart to fight - that they had heard of what God had already done on the behalf of the Children of Israel as they were delivered out of Egypt.

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.

The mountain of Your inheritance refers to Jerusalem – this is where they would establish their capital, erect first the tabernacle and later it is where Solomon would build the Temple on the Temple Mount.

They are looking forward to the day where God will reign over His people forever and ever.

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!"

Miriam was Moses' older sister.

She was the one that kept an eye on the basket that had baby Moses in it.

So, if Moses is in his 80's, She must be in her 90's here.

And here she is leading the women in singing the chorus to the song of Moses -

Verse 20 tells us that she was a prophetess – that she had some type of prophetic gift. However, the scriptures do not provide any of these prophecies.

Later on in the book of Numbers, we will see Miriam use her leadership position in an unwise and ungodly way as she challenges the authority of Moses.

And God inflicts her with leprosy and He then heals her and that is the last time that Miriam is mentioned in scripture.

This song was not written to be sung but once.

This was a song that they were to sing continuously as they offered praises to God no matter what the circumstances.

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.

It would have been nice to linger at the seashore, playing the tambourine and singing songs of praise.

But God, wants them to continue to press on – there are more lessons that needed to be learned before they enter the Promise Land.

So, for three days – as they are wandering the dry desert, they can't find any water.

Their faith is tested.

Remember, three days earlier they were singing and dancing - Three days is not a very long time. But it is long enough to forget the great victory and power of God.

Now Israel faced a long trip through difficult and dry desert.

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 Marah.

In the book of Ruth, when Naomi returns home broken after losing her husband and her children, she tells the women not to call her by her name, which means pleasant – but she instructs them to call her Marah – which means bitter.

It's interesting that the first issue the children of Israel have to deal with after their “salvation” is one of “bitterness”.

For three days, they couldn't find any water and when they finally come upon water – it is undrinkable.

24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

This is the first time we find the use of this word here that is translated, complained. And it won't be the last.

You see, although the Children of Israel complained to Moses, in reality, their complaint was directed at God for bringing them to Marah in the first place.

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 ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

I think it's safe to assume that the Israelites had been looking for rivers or streams or old wells; maybe even natural formations that acted as cisterns, capturing rain water.

I can tell you what they were not looking for: "A tree."

No one said, "Find a tree that we can throw into the water to make it drinkable."

The tree was hiding in plain sight, but it had to be revealed to Moses, through patience accompanying prayer.

I believe that the tree that is mentioned here is a picture of the cross -

[Deu 21:22-23 NKJV] 22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you [as] an inheritance; for he who is hanged [is] accursed of God.

Jesus Christ died on a tree, and it is that cross that makes the experiences of life sweet.

Church, here is an application for our daily walk.

Don't settle for bitter water –

How does the cross take away my bitterness?

Jesus understands my hurt.

(Heb 4:15-16 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

{16} Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

He knows exactly what I'm going through.

The people who hurt Him nailed Him to a cross.

Jesus paid for my sin.

The story of the unforgiving servant (Mat. 18) - Jesus told about the man who was forgiven a huge debt by his master, only to turn around and demand that his friend pay back the five bucks he was owed.

When I look at the cross, I remember that it was at the cross that my sins were paid for.

I have been forgiven. I need to learn to forgive others.

I see purpose in pain by looking at the cross.

Did the pain that Jesus experienced at the cross do anything?

Did it accomplish anything?

It accomplished our salvation.

I may not understand why I have to be hurting right now, but it sure helps to know that God isn't allowing me to suffer needlessly.

The pain that I may be going through right now might be there to refine me or it might be occurring to help others.

We need to learn the cross.

We need to learn to be crucified with Christ.

They say you that know you've learned to "die" with Christ when people keep poking you and it doesn't hurt anymore.

It is the cross of Calvary that transforms our bitter experiences, it is the cross of Calvary that transforms bitter people and bitter circumstances by realizing that the wrongs done to us, the offenses against us, the disappointments registered by us have all been paid for, dealt with, and washed clean by the blood of Calvary.

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.

When the Children of Israel complained against Moses, it revealed their lack of faith and their hardness of heart.

They were deserving of the same plagues that God had brought up against the Egyptians.

And God reminds them that their physical health was going to be directly connected to their obedience to His commands.

In the same way that He healed the bitter waters of Marah, He would be their healer if they would simply obey.

And then in verse 27, He leads them to a place of rest.

Here they had plenty of water and plenty of shade – there was no need for a miracle.

God knew that there was a time for testing and a time for rest.

And here he allows them to rest.

The Children of Israel worshipped God because they experienced His deliverance, how much stronger would they have been if they had worshipped Him before they were delivered.

Sometimes we worship only after being delivered and the problem with that is that sometimes God is waiting for us to worship and praise Him so that He can deliver us.

The book of Job opens up with Job worshipping God

His children are taken away along with all his riches and what do we find Job doing, worshipping God. 'I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!' " (Job 1:20–21).

What calamity are you facing?

What trial is before you?

We worship God, not because of our hardship, but because of His sovereignty and glory.

We worship Him because He is good.

We cannot control our circumstances, but we can control our reaction to them.

Amen

Let's pray...