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Hungering for Holiness, Part 8

Text- Exodus 15:1-19, esp. 11

“Who *is* like You, O Lord, among the gods?

Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness,

Fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11)

This is a song-poem with three sections: verses 1-6; verses 7-11 and verses 12-18. Verse 19 serves as a summation. The song-poem rehearses the glorious triumph of Yahweh over the pursuing Egyptians.

Sometimes when we are victorious over a pursuing enemy, we forget *how* we won. Notice Moses pointing himself and all Israel to the *source* of their victory.

* *He* has triumphed gloriously (v.1)
* The horse and its rider- *He* has thrown into the sea (v. 1)
* *The Lord* is a man of war (v.3)
* Pharaoh’s chariots and his army *He* has cast into the sea (v. 4a)
* *Your right hand* has dashed the enemy in pieces (v.6b)

With a blast of the divine nostrils(wind),

* The waters were gathered together (v. 8)
* The floods stood upright like a heap (v. 8)
* The depths congealed in the heart of the sea (v. 8)

The arrogant, self-confident enemy (the Egyptians) pursued Israel (v. 9) and we continue to see Yahweh’s action in behalf of His people.

* The sea covered them (the enemy) (v. 10)
* The enemy sank like lead (v. 10; cf. also v. 5...” sank like a stone”)

**All of this recall forces a question which is, in form, rhetorical but needs to be answered...out loud.**

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? *(Reflect)*

Who is like You, glorious in holiness, (*Reflect)*

Fearful in praises? *(Reflect)*

Doing wonders? *(Reflect)*

This is a song that celebrates both the *nature* and the *actions* of a God who is peerless. Psalm 86:8,

*Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord* (God’s nature)

*Nor are there any works like Your works. (God’s actions)*

If you dare, name deities who could compare with our God. Go ahead. I’ll wait!

This rhetorical question, “Who is like You, O Lord?”, is frequently asked in the Psalter, the books of Psalms. May I point you to a few places? Look, with me, at Psalm 35:10; 71:19; 77:13; 89:6; 113:5)

This is ***monolatry***, the belief that only one god is to be *served*.

*Monolatry* eventually becomes ***monotheism***, the belief that only one God *exists*.

Isaiah 45:5

*I am the Lord, and there is no other;*

*There is no God besides Me.*

The verse does not mean that there are no other deities vying for your attention and affection. *For you*, there are no other gods. There are none worthy. Psalm 97:7 says that if you should ever find yourselves bowing to such deistic impostors, you should be ashamed. Eventually, all those gods will worship the Lord of all Lords. (Psalm 97:7)

Three areas in which our God is without peer (1 Samuel 2:2):

1.Holiness

2. Praises

3. Wonders

**Closing**

I’ve got to close but I want to tell another way in which our God is unique. Those who don’t know God have to *carry* their god. *Our* God carries *us!!* (Isaiah 46:5-7, then 3-4).

What a God!!!

Amen