

**Session Eight: A Song Means Poetry (Exodus 15):**

# Jabberwocky

BY LEWIS CARROLL

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;  
Long time the manxome foe he sought—  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree  
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"  
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

A Word on Hebrew Poetry:

Read Exodus 15:1-21:

1. Let's consider Ex. 15:2,;
  - a. "The LORD is my strength and my song;

- b. He has become my salvation.”
  - c. Notice the following pattern:
    - i. Aa = “The LORD
    - ii. Ab = “He
    - iii. Ba = is my strength and my song.”
    - iv. Bb = has become my salvation”
- 2. A second example is also in Ex. 15:2, which says:
  - a. “This is my God, and I will praise him,
  - b. “My father’s God, and I will exalt him.”
- 3. Take a moment to see if you can figure out the other parallelism in the second half of this 15:2 beginning at “this is my God...” Try to fill in the blanks:
  - i. Aa = “
  - ii. Ab = “
  - iii. Ba = “
  - iv. Bb = “
- 4. Try some on your own. What parallelism do you see in Ex. 15:4, 5, 6?
  - a. Ex:15:4
    - i. Aa = “
    - ii. Ab = “
    - iii. Ba = “
    - iv. Bb = “
  - b. Ex. 15:5
    - i. Aa = “
    - ii. Ab = “
    - iii. Ba = “
    - iv. Bb = “
  - c. Ex. 15:6
    - i. Aa = “
    - ii. Ab = “
    - iii. Ba = “
    - iv. Bb = “

#### How Parallelism Helps us Understand Moses:

- 1. Notice who Moses says the LORD is:
  - a. See Ex. 15:2, 3,
- 2. Considering who Moses says the LORD is, notice how further understanding is developed when you note the parallelism.
- 3. Remember Ex. 15:2?
  - a. Aa = “The LORD”
  - b. Ab = “is my strength and my song;”
  - c. Ba = “and he”
  - d. Bb = “has become my salvation.”
- 4. Notice how the parallelism ties Ab and Bb together. Thus, what three things is Moses tying together?

5. Consider 15:3:
  - a. Aa = "The LORD"
  - b. Ab = "is a man of war;"
  - c. Ba = "The LORD"
  - d. Bb = "is his name."
6. Don't look ahead. Focus on 5. What connection do you see between Ab and Bb?
7. What does it mean that the LORD's very name is connected with being a "man of war?" Consider: how has the LORD revealed himself to his people? Check out Ex. 14:14. From whom did he free the Israelites? See Ex. 14:18, 27-28.
  - a.
8. Consider 15:7. Fill out the parallelism and see if you can note the connection Moses is noting:
  - a. Aa = "
  - b. Ab = "
  - c. Ba = "
  - d. Bb = "

#### A Song About More Than Israel and Egypt:

1. Parallelism aside, this theme is continued in Ex. 15:9-10. The Egyptians and *all* Pharaoh's army was no match for God. Notice the operations of the mouth. How does the enemy use his mouth? How effective is it? What about God? Also, did you notice how Moses broadened his song here?
  - a.
  - b.
2. Notice how Ex. 15:11 begins a sort of transition in Moses' song. While he is talking about God's deeds over Egypt, this verse can also be applied to God's deeds outside of Egypt. Consider Ex. 15:12. What did God cause to swallow something, regarding the Egyptians? What is the meaning that here God is also swallowing with the earth?
  - a.
3. Again note Ex. 15:13. It could apply to God's redemption of the Israelites from under Egypt. Yet these statements also apply to God's wider office of redeeming his people.
  - a.
4. How does this broadening of Moses' song become more obvious in Ex. 15:14-16. Consider especially Ex. 15:17-18.
  - a.

#### Take Away:

1. This week, I urge you to consider Moses' prayer about God's deliverance. Contemplate just how powerful the LORD is.
2. Also, consider how the LORD's power and deliverance are on your side -- you, one who is redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

#### Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, you truly are a powerful God. Your adversaries are like stubble, and you breath like an open flame. Truly, we have reason to fear you. Yet, because of Christ, we, who were you enemies, have been redeemed. Now you are on our side. Please be present in our

lives. Bring justice to those around us and use your power as you would use it. In Jesus' name, amen.