

Exodus 15:1-11

June 7, 2009 – TRINITY / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Who is like Our God?✠ **The LORD is a warrior.** (vv.1-5 – the Son)☉ **The LORD is majestic.** (vv.6,7 – the Father)☩ **The LORD is full of surprises.** (vv.8-11 – the Holy Spirit)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, dear Christians, especially you, Robert:

Why do you want to be a Christian? Is it only because of your parents and grandparents? Some university professors will try to tell you, “It’s just your parents’ faith.” One college woman told me as a Campus Ministry vicar that she only went to church at home because her mother made her. What is your personal faith? What does Christ mean to you? We’ve spent two years studying that question in Catechism, plus you’ve been blessed with eight years of Christian education at Christ Lutheran School on top of home instruction and Sunday School before that. My hope and prayer is that beyond all the facts we’ve learned about the Bible, your one most lasting impression is how uniquely wonderful the God of the Bible truly is. Then the rest of your life on earth and in heaven will be a great adventure discovering the single answer to this simple, yet profound question: **Who is like Our God?** Like none other...

✠ **The LORD is a warrior.** (vv.1-5 – the Son)

It’s mighty fine to worship your “*father’s God*” since He is “*the LORD...highly exalted*” i.e., “*gloriously triumphant.*” Revel the rest of your life in all the ways God’s Son has triumphed for you. You’ll feel like the Europeans when American GI’s liberated them from Hitler’s steel fisted Nazi armies. With Moses we ask, **Who is like Our God? The LORD is a warrior** who fights for His family.

The Exodus was no party for Egypt. Pharaoh was forced to let God’s people go by ten devastating plagues and finally the death of his firstborn son. Robert, you’re a firstborn son, aren’t you? What would have saved you from death with the firstborn in Egypt? Wasn’t it the blood of the innocent lamb painted on the doorposts for the LORD to *pass over*? The Passover lamb saved the family inside. Death has been conquered for us too because **The LORD is a warrior**. Christ, “*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29), would make an example of Pharaoh in the bloody depths of the Red Sea.

Imagine you finally got your first car. Polished, pampered – you loved that car. But then you saw a new one you wanted even worse. So you accepted a check for the first, thinking to buy the second, only to find out how ugly a check can be when it bounces. The bad boy wrecks your first car and leaves you with a worthless check. Multiply your disappointment by a million, and you’re feeling like Pharaoh the morning after he let his Israelite slaves go free. But then his spies tell him, “They must be lost. They’re wandering back this way!” “Hitch the chariots!” cries Pharaoh. “We’ll trap them by the sea!”

Don’t know about you, but I’ve cried for much less than an army after me. But the LORD was luring Pharaoh’s forces between walls of water right and left. The path had to be miles wide for 600,000 slaves and their families to pass through overnight. But on the far side chariot wheels went wobbly. So Pharaoh turned back just in time for the LORD’s tidal wave to sweep him and his army into the Red Sea.

Now it’s party time for the Israelites. Moses sang a new song of triumph about the question: **Who is like Our God?** Such a powerful answer: “*I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my* שׁוֹעֵן ” – Old Testament, *My Joshua*, New Testament, *My Jesus!* “*He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.*”

Who is like Our God? The LORD is a warrior. Jesus delivered the Israelites as the *Malach Adonai* (Judges 2:1), the Messenger of the LORD. The pre-incarnate Christ destroyed the most powerful army in the world. *“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.”* (Psalm 146:3) Enemies like sin, death and hell can’t be destroyed with nuclear weapons, only by the power of Jesus our Redeemer – crucified, risen and ruling. With Moses we sing, *“He is my God!”* Like none other...

☞ **The LORD is majestic.** (vv.6,7 – the Father)

“Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.”

God’s Word teaches us to be brutally honest. In the light of God’s holy Law we have every reason to be terrified at this **majestic** God. Little wonder many imagine other gods who let them sin however they want or at least accept them for trying. God’s Law judges us guilty like the Israelites crying out to God at the Red Sea because we fear many things more than God. We fear it would be better to just get along with evil. We fear life’s challenges mean God wants to hurt us. We need to hear Moses: *“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* (14:13f)

By His choice, not ours, the LORD is **Our God**. And **Our majestic God** is *“a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate [Him], but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love [Him] and keep [His] commandments.* (Exodus 20:5f NIV) Never on our own, but perfectly in Christ we are credited with obeying all of God’s will perfectly. God the Father has given us His righteousness by faith in the perfect life and innocent death of His one and only begotten Son. Now we sing of His invincible power and justice on our side. **The LORD is majestic.** No power can oppose Him, yet He loves us personally, even knowing the hairs on our head and every member of our family as well. **Majestic** like none other...

☞ **The LORD is full of surprises.** (vv.8-11 – the Holy Spirit)

Not all **surprises** are pleasant. Pharaoh boasted: *“I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.”* Lots of people brag, but all it took to silence Pharaoh was *“the breath”* of God, His Holy Spirit. How unpleasant for Pharaoh to realize he could not escape from **The LORD who is full of surprises.**

Turn off your I-pod and listen to *Moses’ Song*: *“Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”* Who would allow a stranger to crash a wedding party looking all grubby and hostile? Even Hollywood knows you have to rent a tux and “talk-a like-a family.” But it takes more than the right accent with God. In Jesus’ parable (Matthew 22:1-14) the King asked the crasher: *“Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?...The king told the attendants, “Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” “Without holiness no one will see the Lord.”* (Hebrews 12:14 NIV)

But **The LORD is full of surprises** because we were grubby strangers whom God invited in from the highways and byways to clean us up and make us His own. Adopted by Baptism (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21), clean and covered with God’s holiness in Christ, we ask: **Who is like Our God?** No one makes friends of His enemies the way **Our God** has done by making us His holy bride through Jesus.

Robert Douglas Dott, **Our God** is surprising in mercy, awesome in glory and majestic in holiness. As for my Chinese friends in the past, so today I give you a new name. Remember *Who is like Yahweh?* מִיכָה – Micah sings with Moses: *“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.”* (Micah 7:18-20) **Our God** is like none other. Amen.

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