

Oct 09, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Songs can be an indicator of the direction of our heart

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Songs are nearly impossible to forget, so it's wise to be selective about what we sing. Some songs are just for fun, and that's fine, but we benefit from songs that boast in Jesus and encourage our faith

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

22 Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel

(Deut 31:22 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Jan 13, 2021)

**Series: God's Exceptional
Choice**

**UNIT 2: Out of Slavery
to Nationhood**

NEXT WEEK

**The Call of Gideon
(Judges 6:1-2, 7-16)**

Song of Moses Deut 32:3-6, 10-14, 18

Lesson Background and Introduction

Worship, lament, praise, and joy are reflected through the songs of Scripture. These songs give voice for people of God to express complex feelings about life and the nature of following God. In the concluding chapters of Deuteronomy, the Israelites were taught a song for their future. As the book of Deuteronomy comes to a close, Israel's leader, Moses, was on the verge of death. As a result of the impending change of leadership, Moses spoke publicly for the final time. The result is several smaller speeches and songs (found in Deuteronomy 29:2–33:29) that serve as the dramatic conclusion to his ministry. At first Moses reminded the Israelites to remember and accept the stipulations of God's covenant (Deuteronomy 29–30). This covenant was based on God's love for his people and their responding love and commitment to him (see 4:37–40; 5:2–3; 6:5–6; 7:9; 11:1; 13:4). A failure to adhere to God's requirements would result in dramatic negative consequences for Israel (see 28:15–68). In addition, Moses' speech included a statement on his successor (31:1–8), a recitation of the law (31:9–13), and a prediction of the future (31:14–29). In the midst of Moses' speeches, he presented a song for the people (Deuteronomy 31:30–32:43). The song is reminiscent of psalms that celebrate the people's relationship with God (examples: Psalms 78; 105; 106). Just as the psalms were meant for singing, so was this song of Moses (Deuteronomy 31:19, 21–22). The three divisions of the song speak to the scope of the Israelites' relationship with God. God's loyalty is contrasted with their sinfulness (Deuteronomy 32:1–14). As a result, negative consequences are certain (32:15–35). However, forgiveness, healing, and protection can still be attained (32:36–43).

Throughout church history, believers have expressed their joys, doubts, fears, and hopes in songs. These songs of worship have shaped believers into spiritually mature disciples of Jesus. Singing should not be a kind of sedative that numbs us. Rather, our singing should include repentance with praise and self-examination with satisfaction. Only in that way can singing shape us as people of God. On the surface, the nature of the song in today's text is rather cynical; it highlights the failure of the people of Israel. Yet the song's pointed nature leads to a declaration of hope. God's salvation will transform and sustain, if only people remember his steadfast commitment to them. As a result, God's people can sing of his mighty deeds, all while confessing out their own failure to appreciate them. That same sort of forgetfulness can plague Christians today when we forget that our salvation is a gift from God as he draws us into his kingdom. We did not earn that citizenship; it was given to us freely. God sustains us when we recite the story of our faith and live out its implications in our lives.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Song of God's Faithfulness (Deut 32:3-6)

Faithful because of His greatness (3)

- Great because He never changes (Mal 3:6)
- Great because He never fails (Zeph 3:5)
- Great because He stands firm forever (Ps 89:1-2)
- Great because of being merciful and forgiving (Dan 9:9)

Faithful because of His justice (4)

- Justice demonstrated through His forbearance of sin (Rom 3:25-26)
- Justice because God is right (2 Thess 1:5-6)
- Justice for both the righteous and the wicked (Eccl 3:17)
- Justice for His chosen ones (Luke 18:7)

Faithful regardless of people's unfaithfulness (5-6)

- Unfaithful because it's hard to find a faithful man (Prov 20:6)
- Unfaithful because of trusting our own wisdom (Prov 21:2)
- Unfaithful because of trying to justify in the eyes of man (Luke 16:15)
- Unfaithful because there is no one who truly seeks God on their own (Rom 3:10-11)
- Unfaithful because all have sinned and are short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)

Song of God's Goodness (Deut 32:10-14)

Goodness because of His protection (10-11)

- Protection through God being our rock, fortress and deliverer (Ps 18:2)
- Protection through God being an ever-present help in trouble (Ps 46:1)
- Protection through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)
- Protection through God's knowledge of how to rescue godly men (2 Peter 2:9)
- Protection through God's wisdom (Prov 4:6)

Goodness because of His guidance (12-13)

- Guidance that is part of God's plan for our life (Jer 29:11)
- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance that is not under the law (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)

Goodness because of His provisions (14)

- Provision of food (2 Cor 9:10)
- Provision of needs (Phil 4:19)
- Provision of wants (Ps 23:1)
- Provision of grace (2 Cor 9:8)

Song of People's Unfaithfulness (Deut 32:18)

Unfaithful to their foundation (18)

- A foundation that is tested and sure (Isa 28:16)
- A foundation that is the only foundation (1 Cor 3:11)
- A foundation that was built on the work of the apostles and prophets (1 Cor 3:9-10)
- A foundation that has been sealed (2 Tim 2:19)

Unfaithful to their creator (18)

- Creator who breathed His Divine breath into man (Gen 2:7)
- Creator who provided us a life-giving spirit (1 Cor 15:45-47)
- Creator who created us for good works (Eph 2:10)
- Creator who renewed us into a likeness of Him (Eph 4:22-24)