

Oh How Fun to Overcome!

A sharing from Psalm 114



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Let us begin by reading Psalm 114, which will be our central scripture for this sharing!

Psalm 114

*When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from
a people of strange language;*

Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

*The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like
lambs.*

What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest?

Thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

*Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little
hills, like lambs?*

*Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the
presence of the God of Jacob;*

*Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint
into a fountain of waters.*

With this psalm, the Holy Spirit brought this thought to my heart: “Oh how fun...to overcome!”

This is not something we would usually say! All of us have many things within ourselves that we wish we could overcome – and yet we feel we never will. We all have impassable situations like the Red Sea and the Jordan River – hard trials, difficult circumstances in the face of which all hope drains out of us, seemingly no

way out, no way through. We all have mountains and hills within us – high places where enemies lodge, strongholds that will not give way, pride and self that will not be humbled...and we despair, because we love Jesus. We all have hard places – hard as flint – that we just cannot soften.

And so, the subject of “overcoming” brings feelings of dread, doubt, condemnation, and dejected introspection... we are down before we even start!

But in Psalm 114, there is hidden treasure buried rich in its soil, like a key of David for our hearts. May the Spirit of God be free to move in us as we look more closely at what is really happening in these scriptures!

Let us look at some of the questions posed in this psalm, and ponder what the answer might be:

“What ailed thee, O thou sea, that you fleddest?”

“What ailed thee, O Jordan, that thou wast driven back?”

What ailed thee, ye mountains, that you skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?”

There is a “What?” being asked to these obstacles. The Red Sea, the Jordan River, mountains, and hills, are all being asked, “*What made you respond like that?*” What caused you to give way, to flee, to be driven back? What made seemingly immovable places skip like rams and lambs? What compelled such a response?

It is as if the earth – the Red Sea, and the Jordan, the mountains, the hills – all realize something that Jacob – God’s people – does not; these earthly elements actually

see the enormity of something that is going on! Something is making the earth tremble and respond. And yet it is possible for us to be confused, or in depression, or in defeat, because we do not see what they see!

In verse 1, the psalm begins with, “*When Israel went out of Egypt...*” So, in order to find the answer to these “What?” questions, we will start by taking a quick look in Exodus, to give us the context for what was happening “when Israel went out of Egypt”...

Who Came Out of Egypt?

In Exodus 4:22-23, the Lord told Pharaoh, “*Israel is my firstborn... Let my son go, that he may serve me.*”

The true Firstborn Son of God is Christ the Slaughtered Lamb, the One who gave Himself unto death in a spirit of selfless giving, for the sake of others and the glory of the Father. God the Father raised up this Son and made Him the Life of every born-again believer, that He might be given *through them* in the this same spirit (Colossians 1:18, 1:27, Ephesians 1:23, Romans 8:28-29, Philippians 2:3-5, Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 4:13).

In Exodus 12, the people of Israel were instructed to *eat* that Slaughtered Lamb; they put the true Firstborn of God on the inside of them – that is why God called them “His firstborn” in chapter 4! His intention was for His Firstborn Son – the Slain Lamb – to come out of Egypt and serve Him...in and through them!

God was very adamant about this! Before they could come out of Egypt, He told them to slaughter the Lamb

and to eat Him in haste (Exodus 12:8-11)! He did not want to give them teachings and rules – He wanted His Life inside of them! We hear this same desire expressed through Jesus Himself in John 6: “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you...He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him*” (John 6:53, 56).

It was only when *the* Firstborn was in them that they were able to go out of Egypt, called out to go and worship in sacrifice in the wilderness (Exodus 4:22-23, 10:24-26), to let the Firstborn come out of them – because He was *in them*.

The Lord asked His people Israel to eat the Lamb – to take Him into themselves as more than knowledge, but as what fills their very beings – so that He could receive that same One *out of them* in sacrifice – “*Israel is my firstborn... Let my son go, that he may serve me.*”

The Answer to the “What?”

So, we find ourselves back now at Psalm 114! It begins at this point: the children of Israel have eaten the Lamb, the Firstborn is in them, and by Him and for Him they are coming out!

Verse 1: “*When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language...*”

We noticed in verses 5-7, the question “What?” is presented to many different obstacles – the Red Sea, the Jordan, mountains, hills...

***“What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest?
Thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little
hills, like lambs?”***

It was the presence of the Lord, the presence of the God of Jacob – so says the next verse. But it was not simply His presence *with* them which caused the Red Sea and the Jordan to roll back, or great mountains and hills to transform into skipping rams and lambs.

This response came because of His presence *in them*.

Verse 2: *“Judah was His sanctuary, and Israel His dominion.”*

Verse 3: *“The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.”*

The Red Sea and the Jordan bowed down to the Firstborn coming out of His habitation. The earth trembles at the presence of the Son manifesting in His people.

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“Judah was His sanctuary.” They had eaten the Lamb – He was their Life, and they were His sanctuary. Israel was His *dominion* – the place where His throne is, where His Life fills and governs (John 15:1-4; Colossians 1:18, 27; Ephesians 5:30; Psalm 132:13; Revelation 22:3). He, the Firstborn Son, was in Judah. His *dominion*, His realm, was Israel. Him – the Person – the Lamb.

Well, Judah may not have seen it! Israel may not have understood it! But the Red Sea saw it – and fled! The Jordan River saw it – and really it saw a “Him,” not an “it” – and was driven back! Driven back at the presence of the One in them.

Not at the presence of my repentance. Not at the presence of my heart for God. Not at the presence of me doing good for a season. None of these things ailed the sea and the river and the mountains and hills! But at the presence of the slaughtered Lamb in a people? The Red Sea parted, the Jordan fled its banks, the mountains and hills skipped like rams and lambs. Verse 3 says these things “saw it” and it had this effect on them! The coming forth of Christ from within God’s people (Colossians 1:27) changed the climate of the whole world!

To us, this Red Sea is an insurmountable obstacle that has always kept us held back from going deeper for Him, going further for Him, and it appears impassable – and yet, the psalmist asks, “What ailed you, Red Sea, that you just dried right up? Or how about you, Jordan River? What ailed you, that you would be driven back? What power, what thing, affected you that deeply? What affected you, mountains, that you skip like rams, and little hills like lambs?”



These are real questions. Those mountains are those problems we fear we will never overcome – things in us we feel will never move. And yet the Lord said, “Say to this mountain, you shall be removed.” (Mark 11:23, Luke 17:6) With faith. What kind of faith? Faith in the Lamb given through us – in Christ Who is in every born again believer. We have all been born again of incorruptible Seed, which Seed is Christ, Who is in us (I Peter 1:23; Galatians 3:16; Colossians 1:27). If your faith is like a tiny mustard seed – a faith that embraces the incorruptible Seed within – then the whole earth trembles at the presence of the God of Jacob.

It is the Firstborn Son in us, coming out of us, that causes these responses. Christ, the Lamb of God, the real Firstborn Son – is not a teaching or a song. He is the One *that is in Judah*, *that is in Jacob*. He is in His Sanctuary. In every Israelite that ate the Lamb at Passover. He is in every person that has asked Jesus into their heart. His presence, the presence of the God of Jacob, is shaking the earth. Is quaking the mountains. Is changing the sea to dry land. Is taking the Jordan River and causing it to be driven away so we can enter the land.

That is the Firstborn, the Lamb of God in us.



A New Reason to Tremble

Verse 7 of Psalm 114 says, “*Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob...*”

In Isaiah 66:1, the Lord says, “*Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?*” In 66:2, the answer is, “*Him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*” These are the ones who are going to give Me a habitation, He would say. Those who tremble. The heart that trembles at His Word, the Word Himself made flesh, Who is in us (John 1:1-4; II Corinthians 4:6-10). These ones are trembling like the Red Sea, and the Jordan, and the mountains. Trembling at the presence of the God of Jacob who inhabits His people, at the presence of that Lamb inside of us, *the* Firstborn Son.

All creation groans for the manifestation of the sons of God, for the coming forth of God’s Son in our flesh, in human vessels, in His body (Romans 8:18-22). These people are hearing the Word of God’s desire to dwell in us and they are trembling at His Word. They are trembling at the presence of the God of Jacob. The presence of the Lamb inhabiting a people. And they become the house – those who tremble. Those who tremble at His Word become the place where Jesus the slain Lamb can really come forth.

What usually causes us to tremble? We tremble at our failures. We tremble at our relationships where we just

can't get it right – we just can't respond with the right attitude, we can't forgive, we can't get along. Or we tremble at a stronghold in our flesh. The hurt, the pain, the shame, just won't flee away, and we are filled with anger, or frustration, or hurtful memories and unforgiveness. We tremble at our pride that we can't seem to overcome – mountains in us that just won't be humbled. We tremble because we love the Lord, but these impassable high mountains and hills, seem to make it so we cannot go further for Him.

But the Lord says if we tremble, not at all these impossible and impassible things... if we tremble at the presence of the God of Jacob, if we tremble at His Word that He would want to inhabit us, if we tremble at God's Son who would want to be inside of human flesh... If we tremble at that, O earth, O earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7), then the giants, the enemies in the land, will be bread for us! They tremble when they see Jesus the Lamb in His people, coming to inhabit and fill every part of His land (Numbers 14:9)!

When we tremble at the presence of the One who is in us, then those giants in us become bread for us because the mountains in us start fleeing. Little hills begin skipping like lambs. Mountains like rams. Lambs and rams are animals that were used for sacrifice in the Old Covenant! Areas in us that used to stand in defiance to the nature of the Lamb now become part of the offering – lambs and rams. The Red Sea that we could never ever walk across, the Jordan Rivers that we could never pass over – they part and tremble. They look and they know it is not just “me” doing better right now. It is Christ in me that is now my hope of bringing God glory in this situation (Colossians 1:27). This is the God of Jacob. This is the presence of His Son. And so, instead of being in

despair and dread and hopelessness, we can actually have fun overcoming, because our eyes are beholding the One we love more than life itself, and He is in us! And all that is not Him in us will see Him, and be transformed by the brightness of His coming from an impassable sea or high mountain into a place where He can now come out of us, giving Himself through us in His nature of sacrifice!

This is more than a teaching or a statement of agreement. It is like a fire that starts burning deep inside us in the presence of our inward enemies. We say, “Lord, You are preparing a table of Your Lamb in my heart in the presence of my enemies. And I tremble, and the enemies tremble. And You are filling all my cups with oil. It is overflowing me. Goodness and mercy start following me instead of shame or regret. And I want to dwell in the house of the Lord all my days. I want to be with the Son. I want to be with the Father. He quakes my earth. He shakes me, rattles me.” The key of David is starting to go in, starting to unlock places that even our own love for Jesus could not open. Even our zeal to go further for Him could not quake that tomb and unseal that stone. But at the Presence of the Firstborn – the One who is not I, but Christ in us – now these things start shaking. The earth starts quaking at the presence of the God of Jacob. God put His Son in us... believe it! And what was impossible for us is more than possible for Him. (*Psalm 23; Psalm 27; Galatians 2:20; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:35-37*)

All of a sudden, that place where the enemy reigned in us, and pain and hurt and unforgiveness, and years of being trapped in a loop and not getting free – now that place is a place of bringing glory, a place of shining forth (*Psalm 50:2*)! ***The mountains and the hills became rams and lambs – skipping on their way to the altar!***

We try our best, but we default to our old hurts. But when Jesus the Lamb comes to live within us, He just starts changing the inward climate of our hearts. He starts shaking things that could never move! And we

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tremble! We cry out, “Oh, there is a Another Life inside of me!” And we declare, “Tremble oh earth! Tremble oh earth! Leap oh mountains, skip oh hills! Let’s go through the Sea, let’s pass over the Jordan, and enter into the fulness of Him Who is our Land of Promise. Let’s not allow these things to separate us from the Lamb! He is in there!”

Now to Him who is able to do *exceeding abundantly above* all we ask or think, according the power that works in us – the Lamb of God living inside of us! – to Him be glory! In us! By Him! Worlds without end! (Ephesians 3:20-21) The final verses of Psalm 114 ring out with this same faith and hope:

Verses 7-8: “Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob; Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.”

Even those things in us which seem hardest, most impenetrable, most unable to ever flow forth with Life – at the presence of Jesus in us, they yield! They break open! And they become the very places where His life pours out! Boy does that Firstborn do some good work!

Hallelujah! It is the presence of a Person within us Who melts our hearts of stone and turns them into fountains of His Life. He alone is able to do this from the inside out. No doctrine could penetrate that deep, no work of the flesh could produce such living fruit. Only Christ in us brings forth such eternal glory. May all our hope be in the One Who God put in us (Colossians 1:27). May we put no confidence in our flesh (Philippians 3:3).

At this point I would like to share a prayer that a precious sister in Christ prayed over us during the meeting from which this booklet was taken:

Bebe Trevino – *“When the Firstborn is present, rivers can come out of hard places. Coming into agreement with Who is already living inside me, what is already true. We need to see the One who is in us – manifestation happens when it is revealed that Jesus the Firstborn is the One who is present. Stir our hearts to be with You, to acknowledge that you are present, Firstborn.*”

Be strong, be courageous – allow the Spirit to do the beautiful work He is doing in us. May these verses soak in, and tremble our earth, fill our hearts, and unlock us to that Firstborn Who is inside.”

To Him Be the Glory!

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen!” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

May the Word of God in Spirit and Life find entrance into our hearts and move us deep inside to make way for

the Lamb to give us the victory...from within. That key of David, that root of David, is the Slaughtered Lamb. That key opens up the everlasting doors of our hearts and brings forth all the resources of what is not us, but is Him in us. That is what is called “fun to overcome” if you love Jesus! So let’s have some fun! We have got the Lamb in us!

Closing Prayer

Lord, there are so many times I have trembled in fear at the things I have gone through: the fiery trials, the relationships, the situations, the places where pride and self-exaltation and my flesh were just immovable mountains. I have trembled in the presence of these giants. They have terrified me. They have overcome my faith. They have quenched the fire. They have tarnished my spirit, and exalted my flesh... and I have yielded to that. I have allowed that, Lord. But I’m not here to look at me. I have a new focus and a new place of trembling now, Lord. I have a new source of awe, and it is not the giants. And it is not the strongholds in the land. It is the presence of the God of Jacob. It is the Firstborn Lamb Son that is inside of me.

And I want to tremble in *His* presence, I want to be moved by the sweet coming-forth of the Lamb. I want to shake. Like when Isaiah saw the Lord, I want my temple to shake and the pillars to move and the glory of the Lord to fill His habitation (Isaiah 6:1-4). I want my being to fall on its face in the presence of the God of Jacob, the glory of the Lord filling the temple, so much so that it is no longer about the ministry, good works, right deeds (2 Chronicles 7:1-4) – it is just you, Lord. It is

You, Jesus. Oh Father, I want to see Jesus! Just like Elisha had to pray for his servant when he thought they were surrounded by the Syrian host. Elisha said, “Lord, open his eyes.” There were chariots of fire surrounding them with the armies of the Lord (2 Kings 6:15-17). But, Lord, greater than being surrounded by armies and chariots, we are filled with this slain Lamb. Open our eyes to see Jesus, Your Son, in us. May we be His habitation. May the earth tremble, and the hills melt like wax, in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 97:4-5).

Lord, let me not melt in the presence of my enemies – my flesh, my things that I can’t get past. Lord, may there be a change starting right now in all of us, where our hearts melt at the presence of the God of Jacob, the One Who inhabits us and comes forth in sacrifice. And may He start terrifying the Jordan. May He tremble the mountains. May He be the influence to the impossible ruts where I could never go further for You, where I was always stuck in my earth and my flesh... I don’t want that anymore. This is your time, Lord. You fed us the Lamb, and now may He come forth. May He bring us into the land of plenty. May He pass us through the Jordan, past the stronghold of Jericho, and all the inhabitants that are in the Land. May He bring us straight in, all the way into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-7). Straight in; straight into our destination – truly being with You the way you want us to be with you. Through Your Son – through Your Firstborn Son. Jesus, take us all the way to the Father. You are the Way in us. You are the Truth in us. You are our Life. Tremble our earth, shake our walls. Bring us in.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

*“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
(Colossians 1:27)*

“And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18)

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called **according to his purpose**. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.**” (Romans 8:28-29)*

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If you would like to hear more teaching about the Firstborn, please visit the Friends of Life in the Spirit website at www.friendsoflifeinthespirit.com, click on the “classes” tab, and scroll down to the sharings on the Firstborn!

Personal Notes

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