

ISRAEL IN EGYPT TEXTS

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THE LAMENTATION OF THE ISRAELITES FOR THE DEATH OF JOSEPH

The Ways of Zion Do Mourn, HWV 264

The ways of Zion do mourn, and she is in bitterness.
All her people sigh and hang down their heads to the ground

How are the mighty fall'n,
She that was great among the nations and princess of the provinces!

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EXODUS

Israel in Egypt, HWV 54

1. Recitative

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph;
and he set over Israel taskmasters to afflict them with burdens,
and they made them serve with rigour.

2. Alto Solo and Double Chorus

And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage,
and their cry came unto God.
They oppressed them with burthens,
and made them serve with rigour;
and their cry came up unto God.

3. Recitative

Then sent he Moses, His servant, and Aaron,
whom he had chosen; these shew'd his signs
among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.
He turned their waters into blood:

4. Chorus

They loathed to drink of the river;
He turned their waters into blood.

5. Air

Their land brought forth frogs, yea even in their king's chambers.
He gave their cattle over to the pestilence;
blotches and blains broke forth on man and beast.

6. Double chorus

He spake the word, and there came all manner of flies and lice in all their quarters.
He spake, and the locusts came without number,
and devoured the fruits of the ground.

7. Double chorus

He gave them hailstones for rain;
fire mingled with the hail ran along upon the ground.

8. Chorus

He sent a thick darkness over all the land,
even darkness which might be felt.

9. Chorus

He smote all the first-born of Egypt,
the chief of all their strength.

10. Chorus

But as for his people, he led them forth like sheep:
He brought them out with silver and gold;
there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

12. Double chorus

He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up.

14. Double chorus

But the waters overwhelmed their enemies,
there was not one of them left.

15. Double chorus

And Israel saw that great work that the Lord did upon the Egyptians;
and the people feared the Lord.

16. Chorus

And believed the Lord and his servant Moses;
and the people feared the Lord...

MOSES' SONG

17. Chorus

Moses and the children of Israel sung this song
unto the Lord, and spake, saying:

18. Chorus

I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.

19. Duet

The Lord is my strength and my song; he is become my salvation.

20. Chorus

He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God.

21. Chorus

And I will exalt him. He is my father's God. I will exalt him.

22. Duet

The Lord is a man of war.
Lord is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea.
His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

23. Double chorus

The depths have covered them; they sank into the bottom as a stone.

24. Double chorus

Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power.
Thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

25. Double chorus

And in the greatness of thine excellency,
thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee.

26. Double chorus

Thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

28. Air

The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;
my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand
shall destroy them».

29. Air

Thou didst blow with the wind, the sea covered them;
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

30. Double chorus

Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?
Thou stretchest out thy right hand:

31. Double chorus

The earth swallowed them.

32. Air

Thou, in thy mercy hast led forth thy people, which thou hast redeemed;
Thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

33. Double chorus

The people shall hear, and be afraid:
sorrow shall take hold on them.
All the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away,
by the greatness of thy arm.
They shall be as still as a stone, till thy people pass over, O Lord,
thy people which thou hast purchased.

34. Air

Thou shall bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,
in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in,
in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

35. Double chorus

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

36. Recitative

For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea,
and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them;
but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

37. Double chorus

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

38. Recitative

And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron,
took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out,
after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them:

39. Soprano solo & double chorus

Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously.
The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.
The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.