

## ***Psalm 106***

- Psalm 106 is one of the “Hallel” psalms, or praise psalms, this psalm begins with “Hallelujah” or praise the Lord, and it ends with “Hallelujah” - Praise the Lord!

V: 1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord - we're called to praise the Lord, and to give thanks to the Lord - and we're given two reasons.

1. Because He is good.
2. And because His mercy endures forever!

**Psalm 92:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; <sup>2</sup>to declare your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.”

V: 2 Rhetorical question - no one can do that, no one can enumerate all His mighty acts.

- But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try!

**Psalm 105:1** “Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples!”

V: 3 “Blessed” of God, “O how happy” are those who keep justice and do righteousness.

**Micah 6:8** “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

- There is inherent blessing in being obedient to God's Word, to doing God's Word.

**Psalm 15:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? <sup>2</sup>He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;”

V: 4 This so reminds me of the thief on the cross:

**Luke 23:42-43** “<sup>42</sup>Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. <sup>43</sup>And Jesus said to him, assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

**Psalm 119:132** “Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name.”

V: 5 *“His nation...”*

**Psalm 33:12** “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”

- The joy of knowing that you / we were chosen by God before the beginning of time, the joy of being one of His children!
- We, the church of Jesus Christ, have been chosen. We are God’s holy people and we are the heirs of salvation through Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

V: 6 The Jews are a patriarchal society, they are proud of their heritage. At the time of Jesus they were constantly referring to the fathers and their traditions - neglecting the reality of their shortcomings.

- The disciple Stephen pointed this out in Acts 7 just before the religious leaders stoned him.
- As the Psalmist declares that “*we*” have sinned with our fathers it is the admission that we are sinners like our fathers who were not always faithful; as their history illustrates all too well.

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

V: 7 As God brought the nation of Israel out of its bondage in Egypt, He did so with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm - with signs and wonders that eventually compelled Pharaoh and the Egyptians to relent and set Israel free.

- Sadly these signs and wonders were soon forgotten when the children of Israel were faced with their first faith challenge - when they were boxed in at the Red Sea with Pharaoh’s army bearing down upon them.
- There they murmured against the Lord “weren’t there enough graves in Egypt...?”
- They didn’t understand, they didn’t comprehend how good and faithful, and powerful God is - they were suffering from short term memory loss - they’d forgotten how they were delivered.

V: 8-11 “Nevertheless” - in spite of that He saved them for His own name’s sake, for the sake of His reputation - because God had given His Word, He had promised.

- And that He might make His mighty power known.
- He brought the children of Israel safely through the Red Sea, like a walk through the wilderness on dry ground.
- Then as Pharaoh and his army were in pursuit, He brought the sea down upon them, and not one of them was left.
- I've seen pictures and video footage at one of the places where they think the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea where they've discovered what appear to be the remains of chariots and wheels of the type that the Pharaoh and his army would have used.
- In Egypt today in what is known as the valley of the kings they have a museum dedicated to the kings of Egypt, the Pharaoh's. In one large room they have the sarcophagus' of the various Pharaoh's which functions like a time line of their history from the beginning to the end, each Pharaoh who reigned for a specific period of time as it's described in history. They actually have an almost complete set, there is only one Pharaoh missing, because "and not one of them was left."
- It was the "Red Sea" not the reed marsh or anything else. Ours is the God of miracles and might, no need to rationalize or water it down!

V: 12 "*Then they believed...*" Only after seeing, that's not a compliment.

- It would have been better if they had danced and sung on the other side of the Red Sea; they had to see it to believe it instead of taking God at His word.

Jesus told His disciples:

**John 20:29** "... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

V: 13-15 This is why we are to remember, to give thanks, to sing praises - all as reminders so that we don't forget.

- God didn't bring them through the Red Sea just to let them die in the wilderness, there is a purpose in all of their experiences.
- They did not wait for His counsel - we've probably all done that at some time - just pressed on not waiting for God to guide.
- They tested / tempted God, tempting Him to wipe them out!
- The children of Israel lusted for meat, they abhorred the bread from heaven, the manna so God gave them what they wanted until it was coming out their noses.

- <sup>15</sup>He gave them what they wanted, but there was a price to pay. Anytime we indulge our flesh, it will cost us spiritually, whenever we give in to the flesh.

“<sup>15</sup>... *leanness into their soul*...” One of the scariest verses in the Bible, describing a hardness of heart towards the things of God, a dryness of Spirit, a coldness of heart, that will grow and fester - not the place that any of us want to be.

David described it:

**Psalm 32:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”

- The Bible warns us that if we live after the flesh we will die, that the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the spirit is life, joy, and peace.

**Romans 8:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

V: 16-18 Summarizing the events described in **Numbers Ch 16** in what's referred to as “Korah's rebellion.”

- Dathan, Abiram, and Korah - rebelled against God by rebelling against God's chosen ruler. They said “*Moses you've taken too much upon yourself.*”
- Moses responded saying “why don't we let God decide” tomorrow you bring your censors and all and we'll see what God says.
- The next morning 250 men show up, but not the ring leaders who refused to obey Moses.
- Moses then said that God would do something new, that these men would die in an unusual way - and about that time the earth opened up and swallowed up those men alive and their families. “*They went alive into the pit.*”
- Then fire came down from heaven and consumed the other 250 men.

V: 19-23 Moses was up on Mt. Sinai receiving the law of God, the 10 commandments and before he could even make it down the people were breaking them.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment: “*I AM the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before me.*”
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment: “*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images...*”

- Talk about messing up by the numbers, they changed the glory of God into a created thing, a golden calf.

**Romans 1:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

- In the process, they forgot all the great and wonderful things that God had done for them - and God would have wiped them out had not Moses interceded on their behalf. Moses the man of God prayed for them, he interceded.

V: 24-27 There they were at the border of the promised land, the 12 spies came back, 2 with a good report, affirming what God had spoken, 10 with a bad report - contrary to what God had spoken - and ultimately they “**despised the pleasant land.**”

- <sup>25</sup>They complained in their tents - we don't have any private conversations from the Lord.
- God then refused to let them enter into the promised land until all that rebellious and un-faithful generation had died off, this would take 40 years - Joshua and Caleb would be the only ones to enter into the promised land - the two good spies.
- *It's been said that the Lord took Israel out of Egypt in one night, but that it took 40 years to take Egypt out of Israel.*

V: 28-31 While they were wandering... the king of the Edomites, Balak, saw the children of Israel coming towards his land and wanted to curse them. He hired Balaam the prophet who wouldn't and couldn't curse the children of Israel, but he eventually counseled Balak on how to trip them up. (**Numbers 22-25**)

- Basically Balaam told Balak to send their young women down to the Israelites to have them offer sacrifices to their pagan gods and engage in the ritual prostitution that went along with it. This would incur the wrath of God, and they would bring a curse upon themselves. The Israelites fell into it hook, line, and sinker.
- Then Phinehas the priest pointed out the error of their ways.

**Numbers 25:7-9** “<sup>7</sup>Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; <sup>8</sup>and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. <sup>9</sup>And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.”

V: 31 “*And that was accounted to him for righteousness...*”

Speaking to Abram:

**Genesis 15:16** “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

- Phinehas believed in God and took Him at His word - and acted on it.

**James 2:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, you have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- The Psalmist describes what Phinehas did as an act of faith, that God accounted as righteousness for Phinehas.

V: 32-33 In their wandering years the children came around to Horeb for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. The first time they'd been there they cried out to God for water. God instructed Moses to strike the Rock - water came out of the split rock of Horeb, gushed out in torrents meeting the needs of 3 million people.

- Now as they've returned to the same place (Numbers 20), the people are thirsty, and complaining, murmuring - God instructs Moses:

**Numbers 20:8-12** “<sup>8</sup>Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals. <sup>9</sup>So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him. <sup>10</sup>And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup>Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. <sup>12</sup>The the Lord spoke to Moses...because you did not hallow me in the eyes of the children of Israel...”

V: 33 “*Because they rebelled against His Spirit...*” We need to be careful not to repeat that mistake.

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

V: 34-43 Describing disobedience, and rebellion.

Samuel speaking to king Saul:

**1 Samuel 15:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>So Samuel said: Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the

sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”

- God wanted to use the nation as His instrument of judgment against the nations that were so vile in their filthy pagan practices, but instead of wiping them out, they became infected, they even eventually began to sacrifice their own children in these horrible pagan rituals.
- God wanted to protect them from it, wanted them to be separated from it. But now because they disobeyed God, they didn't wipe them out, they ended up becoming part of it.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. <sup>18</sup>I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

- The Israelites would eventually pay a heavy price for their disobedience; as will the United States because we have pretty much done the same thing.
- There are women today who get pregnant and bear children just so they can give them to those who worship Satan, and offer their children as human sacrifices to the Devil.
- Besides that, as a nation we've killed something like 60 million children through the practice of abortion, we've shed much innocent blood, we've defiled our own land - and there will be a heavy price to pay.
- The book of judges describes the back and forth nature of sin running rampant in the nation of Israel as every one did what was right in their own eyes.

V: 44-45 “*Nevertheless...*” In spite of all that... He regarded, He cared, He saw their affliction and He heard their cry, and He remembered His covenant and His promises towards them.

**Psalm 103:10** “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

Because:

Vv: 1 “... He is good! For His mercy endures forever!”

V: 46-47 While in captivity in Babylon, those that weren't slaughtered were treated well and eventually the nation was set free.

- Their prayers were answered, they were gathered from among the Gentiles.

V: 48 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! God is so good, He is so faithful, so merciful, so gracious, so kind! From everlasting to everlasting!

- Praise the Lord!

V: 4 *“Oh visit me with Your salvation.”*