

Psalm 107

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- Psalm 106 was the last Psalm of the 4th book of Psalms, now Psalm 107 is the beginning of the 5th and final book of Psalms. (1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150)
 - According to Rabbinic tradition, Psalm 107 was one of the Psalms sung at the laying of the foundation for the 2nd Temple under Ezra's leadership following their release from Babylon.
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V: 1 This Psalm starts off pretty much the same as the last couple of Psalms with the exhortation to give thanks to the Lord and to praise Him because He is, He is still good, and His mercy still lasts forever.

- We see the goodness of the Lord recounted to us through this Psalm. The goodness of the Lord is His responding to the call of His people in their distress.

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

V: 2 Let the redeemed, those who have experienced His goodness and His faithfulness declare that to those around them.

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

- “Redeemed” - to redeem means to buy back, in this case to buy from bondage, the bondage to sin, from slavery unto death, redeemed from the enemy.
- The “redeemed” are those for whom the price has been paid.

Jesus paid the price for us:

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

- In context of this Psalm, the redeemed are the children of Israel, redeemed from their captivity in Babylon - which is a type and picture of our redemption from our enemy, the Devil.

V: 3 There were and have been many times when God would re-gather His people after having seen them scattered abroad due to their disobedience.

Isaiah 43:5-6 “⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, give them up! And to the south, do not keep them back! Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.”

- Still looking at “redemption” in context of this verse, Revelation describes when that redemption will be complete:

Revelation 5:7-10 “⁷Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people, and nation, ¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

V: 4 When the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness it was desolate in the sense that it was mostly a barren land void of the basic necessities - thus the Lord would provide these things directly that they would know it was coming from His hand.

- They found no city to dwell in - no place to call home, they were sojourners.
- We’re kind of in the same boat:

Hebrews 13:14 “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”

V: 5 With no where else to go, no home per se, they found themselves hungry and thirsty - unable to feed themselves, they did the only thing they could do.

“... *their soul fainted in them.*”

- They waited until they were desperate, prayer seemed to be their last resort as opposed to their first resort.

V: 6 They cried out to the Lord - and the Lord heard, He delivered them.

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.”

Psalm 50:15 “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

V: 7 Part of His deliverance is the fact that He led them, He led them because they were finally willing to follow. I believe this is a reference to their journey back to Jerusalem.

- We get into trouble most often when we want to go our own way:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one, to his own way;...”

- We can be such stubborn, brutish, foolish little sheep.

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

V: 8 This verse comes across as somewhat of a lament. “*Oh that men wouldn’t take God’s blessings for granted!*”

- We should be careful to give God praise and thanks for the work that He does in each of our lives.

Luke 17:12-19 Describes Jesus’ encounter with 10 lepers who asked to be healed - “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

“¹⁴So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.””

- As they in obedience went, they discovered along the way that they were healed.

“¹⁵⁻¹⁶One of them, when he saw that he was healed turned back, returning to Jesus and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶and fell down on his face at Jesus feet, giving Him thanks...”

- Jesus then asked, weren’t there 10 that were healed? 1 in 10, Lord help us to be that 10%.
- While God can and does operate in the area of the miraculous, so often His work in our lives is worked out in very natural ways, inconspicuous ways, perhaps even simple ordinary ways - but it is no less the work of God in our lives - we need to learn to recognize that, and give Him the praise and glory for it, not to neglect to give Him thanks for those things, and testify to others about them.

V: 8

V: 9 Satisfying the longing soul, filling the hungry soul - with goodness, with Himself, only God can do that.

Jesus is the One who satisfies us, just like He told the woman at the well in Samaria:

John 4:13-14 “¹³...whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.”

1 Timothy 6:6 “Now Godliness with contentment is great gain.”

V: 10-12 Those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death - meaning it's close at hand, bound, imprisoned in affliction, suffering, and irons - chains, bound up.

- Why? Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High.

Proverbs 13:13 “He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.”

- Despising the counsel of God they bring destruction and affliction upon themselves.

V: 13-14 “Then they cried out to the Lord... and He saved them...” (2nd time V: 6)

- Why? Because His mercy endureth forever!

V: 15 Oh that men would remember to be thankful to their God! (2nd time V: 8)

V: 16 Gates of bronze / brass = judgment, the bars / locks being broken:

- He's describing a prison:

Jesus said:

Matthew 16:18b “... and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;”

- Now we come to those who are described as foolish.

V: 17-18 When you transgress the law of God, when you give yourself over to living a sinful riotous life, it has its natural consequences upon you. They were afflicted by their own behavior.

Proverbs 8:36 “But he who sins against Me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate Me love death.”

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

- There have been many that have been made sick as a result of their sin; many a drug addict or alcoholic as an example who lost their desire for food. Many that looked like they were going to die as a result of their sin.
- I believe that the food that their soul abhors that brought them to the point of death is the Word of God itself, the bread of life.

Matthew 4:4 “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

- I believe this because of what we read in V: 20 - what healed them - His Word which they did at that time receive or partake of.

V: 19 On the verge of death, on the brink of disaster, in a place of desperation - “*Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, ... and He saved them from their destructions.*” (3rd time)

V: 20 He sent His Word, the difference is (because His Word had already been there) the difference was that this time they took heed to His Word.

Jesus said:

Luke 11:28 “... blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!”

V: 21-22 Again that we would not neglect the giving of thanks and praise, offering the sacrifices of thanksgiving, declaring His works with joy.

Hebrews 13:15 “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

- Now we go from fools to sailors:

V: 23-31 Out there on the sea, the great waters, the Mediterranean, in their ships, they see the wonder of God’s creation.

- The storms, the huge waves, cresting the top of the waves, diving down into the depths, and back up. The fear that grips their souls as they reel to and fro - being at wits end - nothing they can do.

“²⁸Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses.”

- He calms the storm, they are glad, and He guides them to their destination.

Jesus calmed the storm:

Mark 4:39 “Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”

- He calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and He calms the storms in our lives.

“³¹Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”

V: 32 Let them, the sailors exalt Him / God also in the assembly of the people - the church, and praise Him in the company of the elders.

- I'm just gonna guess that this means the sailors should be going to church!

V: 33-35 God is sovereign and He commands the elements, and nature to do His bidding.

Deuteronomy 32:39 “Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.” God is sovereign, and He makes no apologies for it.

- When He turns the lush places into desert - describing drought and famine - why?

“³⁴For the wickedness of those who dwell in it.”

- God makes the lush places to wither, and the desert places to flourish.

Example:

Exodus 17:6 “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”

Psalm 105:41 “He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it ran in the dry places like a river.”

V: 36-37 The ancients considered bread and wine to be the two main staples of life. Sowing the field for wheat, for bread; and the vineyards for the wine.

V: 38-42 God's blessing; fruitfulness in child bearing, multiplication - the same with their cattle - just not as cute...

- God blesses and sustains the righteous. He pours contempt of the wicked.
- The righteous / the wise see these things, they draw the correlation and alter their lives accordingly.

"42b... *And all iniquity stops its mouth.*"

Psalm 31:18 "Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous."

Jesus calmed the storm:

Mark 4:39 "The He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm." (muzzled!)

V: 43 The wise will see these things and they will see the loving kindness of the Lord in it.

- Remembering the exhortation in verses 8, 15, 21, and 31

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"

- This Psalm portrays 4 different human conditions; and Jesus is the answer to each situation:

V: 4-9 Describe a lost people, wandering through a barren land, they're fainting from hunger and thirst, they're weary:

- They're lost & wandering: **John 14:6** Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life..."
- They're hungry: **John 6:35 & 48** Jesus is "the bread of life..."
- They're thirsty: **John 4:13-14** Jesus gives the water by which a man will "never thirst again."

V: 10-16 Describes the weary captive, the prisoner who rebelled against the Word of God:

Jesus is the Redeemer: **Ephesians 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

V: 17-22 Describes the fool who's been afflicted by their own sin, who needs a healer.

- Jesus is the One who heals: **Jehovah-Rapha Luke 5:31-32** Jesus is the Physician.

V: 23-30 Describes the sailor at wits end, those who are being tossed to and from through the storms of life.

- In **Mark 4:39** Jesus is the One who calms the storm, on the Sea of Galilee, and in our lives.
- Seems to me like it's all about Jesus!

V: 31 Say it with me:

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”