

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Bereans Sunday School
Placerita Baptist Church
2007

by
William D. Barrick, Th.D.
Professor of OT, The Master's Seminary



Psalm 107 — The Redeemed Love to Sing

1.0 Introducing Psalm 107

- Psalm 107 begins the fifth and final section of the Book of Psalms (Pss 107–150).
 - ✓ In Book 5, Psalms 108–110, 122, 124, 131, 133, and 138–145 are associated with David. Psalm 127 was composed by Solomon.
 - ✓ Psalms 113–118 are known as the “Egyptian Hallel,” employed in the celebration of Passover.
 - ✓ Psalms 120–134 are the “Psalms of Ascent.”
 - ✓ Psalms 146–150 all begin with “Praise the LORD” (*Hallelujah*), finishing the book with a Hallelujah chorus.
 - ✓ Book 5 contains the shortest (Ps 117) and the longest (Ps 119) psalms.
- It is the conclusion to a four-part summary of God’s work on earth to that point in history.

Psalm 104	Psalm 105	Psalm 106	Psalm 107
History of the Creation and Flood	History of the Patriarchs to the Conquest of Canaan	History of Israel in Their Land until the Babylonian Captivity	History of the Return to the Land from Exile

- Psalm 106:47 records the prayer of the Israelite captives in Babylon: “Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the nations.” The answer to that prayer is described in Psalm 107.

2.0 Reading Psalm 107 (NAU)

- 107:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 107:2** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary
- 107:3** And gathered from the lands,
From the east and from the west,
From the north and from the south.
- 107:4** They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region;

- They did not find a way to an inhabited city.
- 107:5** They were hungry and thirsty;
Their soul fainted within them.
- 107:6** **Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He delivered them out of their distresses.**
- 107:7** He led them also by a straight way,
To go to an inhabited city.
- 107:8** **Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!**
- 107:9** For He has satisfied the thirsty soul,
And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.
- 107:10** There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death,
Prisoners in misery and chains,
- 107:11** Because they had rebelled against the words of God
And spurned the counsel of the Most High.
- 107:12** Therefore He humbled their heart with labor;
They stumbled and there was none to help.
- 107:13** **Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He saved them out of their distresses.**
- 107:14** He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death
And broke their bands apart.
- 107:15** **Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!**
- 107:16** For He has shattered gates of bronze
And cut bars of iron asunder.
- 107:17** Fools, because of their rebellious way,
And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.
- 107:18** Their soul abhorred all kinds of food,
And they drew near to the gates of death.
- 107:19** **Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He saved them out of their distresses.**
- 107:20** He sent His word and healed them,
And delivered them from their destructions.
- 107:21** **Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!**
- 107:22** Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And tell of His works with joyful singing.
- 107:23** Those who go down to the sea in ships,
Who do business on great waters;
- 107:24** They have seen the works of the LORD,
And His wonders in the deep.
- 107:25** For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind,
Which lifted up the waves of the sea.
- 107:26** They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths;



- Their soul melted away in their misery.
- 107:27** They reeled and staggered like a drunken man,
And were at their wits' end.
- 107:28** **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
And He brought them out of their distresses.**
- 107:29** He caused the storm to be still,
So that the waves of the sea were hushed.
- 107:30** Then they were glad because they were quiet,
So He guided them to their desired haven.
- 107:31** **Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!**
- 107:32** Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people,
And praise Him at the seat of the elders.
- 107:33** He changes rivers into a wilderness
And springs of water into a thirsty ground;
- 107:34** A fruitful land into a salt waste,
Because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it.
- 107:35** He changes a wilderness into a pool of water
And a dry land into springs of water;
- 107:36** And there He makes the hungry to dwell,
So that they may establish an inhabited city,
- 107:37** And sow fields and plant vineyards,
And gather a fruitful harvest.
- 107:38** Also He blesses them and they multiply greatly,
And He does not let their cattle decrease.
- 107:39** When they are diminished and bowed down
Through oppression, misery and sorrow,
- 107:40** He pours contempt upon princes
And makes them wander in a pathless waste.
- 107:41** But He sets the needy securely on high away from affliction,
And makes his families like a flock.
- 107:42** The upright see it and are glad;
But all unrighteousness shuts its mouth.
- 107:43** Who is wise?
Let him give heed to these things,
And consider the lovingkindnesses of the LORD.

3.0 Understanding Psalm 107

3.1 Outline

- I.** Introduction: Let the Redeemed Recite! (vv. 1-3)
- II.** The Homeless Has Been Resettled! (vv. 4-9)
- III.** The Prisoner Has Been Released! (vv. 10-16)
- IV.** The Sick Has Been Restored! (vv. 17-22)



- V. The Storm-Tossed Has Been Rescued! (vv. 23-32)
- VI. Conclusion: Let the Redeemed Rejoice! (vv. 33-42)
- VII. Postscript: Let the Redeemed Reflect on This! (v. 43)

3.2 Notes

- **vv. 1-3 Let the Redeemed Recite!**
 - There are several ties to the previous psalm in the opening verses of Psalm 107.
 - ✓ Both psalms begin with the same words.
 - ✓ Psalm 107:2 repeats a concept stated in 106:10.
 - ✓ Psalm 107:3 appears to indicate an answer to the prayer in 106:47.
- **vv. 4-9 The Homeless Has Been Resettled!**
 - These verses are echoed in Hebrews 11:37-38 in the New Testament.
 - The patriarchs wandered in the wilderness. They searched for a city, the city of God (Hebrews 11:8-16). God finally brought them to Canaan.
 - The people had hungered and thirsted for righteousness, but they had not come to the Righteous One—they were still depending upon their own worthless righteousness.
 - Note the first refrain (v. 6): God answers His people's prayers.
 - Note the second refrain (v. 8): Believers should thank God for His wonderful deliverance.
 - "Wonders" (v. 8) refers to His miracles.
 - "Lovingkindness" (*hesed*) throughout this psalm means "loyal, steadfast love." God is always faithful to His people.
 - ✓ God's loyal love is the content of praise (v. 1).
 - ✓ God's loyal love is the reason for praise (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31).
 - ✓ God's loyal love is the subject of wise meditation (v. 43).
- **vv. 10-16 The Prisoner Has Been Released!**
 - Verse 11 contains a pun employing similar sounding words: "they had rebelled [*himru*] against the words [*'imre*] of God."
 - It is possible that this section of the psalm might describe Israel's captivity in Egypt (note the reference to "labor" in v. 12) and ultimate deliverance.
 - God did not send His people into captivity to destroy them. He sent them into imprisonment so that He could ultimately rescue them.
 - When Israel realized that truth, they called upon Him and He delivered them from their captivity.
 - See Isaiah 45:1-13.
 - See Luke 4:18-19—the Messiah sets the prisoner free.



- **vv. 17-22 The Sick Has Been Restored!**
 - The sicknesses afflicting the Israelites came upon them because of their sinfulness (v. 17).
 - “Fools” (v.17) expresses God’s evaluation of Israel’s behavior. Compare with verse 43.
 - While in Babylon, the nation of Israel almost ceased to exist.
 - Not until some people come face-to-face with death do they finally realize their terrible condition. There are many whom God has had to bring to the edge of their own grave before they would finally turn to Him for His help.
 - Consider the example of King Hezekiah. He tended to be arrogant and self-centered. A comparison of Isaiah 38:3 with 37:16-20 reveals that Hezekiah’s emphasis in the former was upon his own deeds. Even after his healing God chastised Hezekiah for arrogance: “But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.” (2 Chron 32:25).
 - Compare Psalm 116:1-9.

- **vv. 23-32 The Storm-Tossed Has Been Rescued!**
 - “‘The sea is a boundless expanse,’ General ’Amribn-al-As warned, ‘whereon great ships look like tiny specks; nought but the heavens above and the waters beneath; when calm, the sailor’s heart is broken; when tempestuous, his senses reel. Trust it little, fear it much. Man at sea is an insect on a splinter, now engulfed, now scared to death.’”— Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Discoverers* (New York: Random House, 1983), 180.
 - The storm at sea humbles mortal man, causing him to look to God for deliverance (vv. 27-28).
 - God stills the storm (v. 29). See Luke 8:22-25—the Messiah has the power to calm the storm and the sea.

- **vv. 33-42 Let the Redeemed Rejoice!**
 - “The difference in tone and content is only a case of the psalmist’s honesty, depth, and spiritual sensitivity being greater than our own. He is acknowledging that not everything the people of God experience can be described as a deliverance and be received with utter joy.”— James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms*, 3 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 3:872-73.
 - In this section of the psalm the writer appears to demonstrate knowledge of the prophecies of Isaiah (v. 33 with Isa 42:15; v. 35 with Isa 41:18) and the book of Job (v. 40 with Job 12:21-24).
 - Verses 33-38 have to do with the **Soil**. These verses speak of hard times (vv. 33-34) and then blessing (vv. 35-38).



- Verses 39-42 have to do with the **Soul**. Just like the previous section, these verses speak of hard times (vv. 39-40) and then blessing (vv. 41-42).
- **v. 43 Let the Redeemed Reflect on This!**
 - True wisdom reflects on the loyal love of God for His people.
 - Biblical wisdom is right thinking joined with right believing, resulting in right living.
 - Compare Hosea 14:9.

4.0 Singing Psalm 107

O Praise the Lord, for He Is Good

(Tune: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God")



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O praise the Lord, for He is good,
His mercies still endure;
Thus let His ransomed testify,
From all their foes secure.
He has redeemed His captive saints
From adversaries' hands,
Has gathered them and brought them back
In peace from hostile lands.</p> <p>3 O praise the Lord, ye sons of men,
For loyal love He's shown;
O praise Him for the wondrous works
To you He has made known.
The longing soul that turns to Him
He fully satisfies;
He fills with good each hungering one
That for His mercy cries.</p> | <p>2 They wandered in the wilderness,
By want and hunger pressed;
In trouble when they cried to God,
He saved their souls distressed.
He made the way before them plain,
Himself became their Guide;
He brought them to a city strong
Wherein they might abide.</p> |
|---|---|

— Author unknown

5.0 Praying Psalm 107

- Lord, help me to speak out about my redemption. [v. 2]
- Thank You for being faithful to me in Your loyal love. [v. 8]
- Father, humble my heart, if I ever rebel against Your Word. [vv. 11-12]
- Give me Your wisdom, Lord. [v. 43]
-

6.0 Applying Psalm 107

- Our faithful Lord has power to save His people.
- God's people owe their existence to His goodness.
- Even when God's people are unfaithful, He remains faithful.