

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

God clearly wants His people to remember how He delivered Israel from their bondage in Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. Think about it! God institute the Passover where the people reviewed those events every year. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, God was reminding them of what He did for Israel. The Psalms and the Prophets make mention of it often. Also the New Testament urges us to remember these events. Obviously there are some important lessons God wants us to learn from His dealing with His people.

So, as part of our series, “**Make a Joyful Shout to the Lord**” we are going to look at several Psalms that remind us of **God’s Dealings with His People in the Wilderness**.

We begin with Psalm 105. This Psalm focuses entirely on the overwhelming goodness and faithfulness of God toward His often rebellious people. It is a longer Psalm so we will read through it in sections as we go. Psalm 105 begins with a call to give thanks and praise to God and to seek God and serve Him. We will come back to those opening verses at the end. Starting in verse 5, God shows us WHY we should praise Him.

God is Forever Faithful**Verses 5-7**

5 Remember His marvellous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, 6 O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! 7 He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

These Bible accounts are so important. They are not just some stories for children in Sunday School. We need to learn them well and remember the “Marvelous works which He has done.” Verse 7 tells us why we need to remember these things. “He is the Lord OUR God; His judgments are in all the earth.” He is OUR God. He is still doing all these same things for us.

We don’t see God working directly in our daily life. It seems like everything is done by natural causes and by our own actions. But in the accounts of God dealing with Israel, we learn how God deals with US today. God is in control of everything. We need to remember these things so we know God is just as active in our lives today.

Verses 8-11

8 He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, 9 The covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, 10 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, 11 Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance.”

God ALWAYS remembers His promise. If it ever seems like He is not keeping His promise to you, remember God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham’s descendants. It was nearly 500 years later that God kept that promise and brought the nation of Israel into the land of Canaan. So don’t give up on God’s promises. God urges us to WAIT upon the LORD. He never forgets His promises or fails to keep His covenant with you. This history assures us of that.

Verses 12-15

12 When they were few in number, indeed very few, and strangers in it. 13 When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people, 14 He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, 15 Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.”

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were strangers in the land of Canaan. They moved about among the different nations living there, basically camping wherever they could find enough open space for their flocks. God zealously protected them and didn’t allow anyone to harm them.

Think about your own life. How many times were you in some danger, physically or spiritually. How did you get through it? God shows us that He was guarding and protecting you. He was preserving your life and strengthening your soul. God always watches over us.

Verses 16-22

16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. 17 He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. 18 They hurt his feet with fetters. He was laid in irons.

19 Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. 20 The king sent and released him, the ruler of the people let him go free. 21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, 22 To bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom.

Sometimes God protects us from harm and sometimes He allows harm to come. Joseph had several years of great hardship and suffering, but God was testing him, preparing him for his role as ruler in Egypt to save many thousands of people including his own family, God's people.

Do you wonder why God is allowing some trouble in your life? Don't worry, He has a plan and is working His purpose for you.

God is always Faithful in all things.

Verses 23-38

23 Israel also came into Egypt, and Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham. 24 He increased His people greatly, and made them stronger than their enemies. 25 He turned their heart to hate His people, to deal craftily with His servants. 26 He sent Moses His servant, and Aaron whom He had chosen. 27 They performed His signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. 28 He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they did not rebel against His word. 29 He turned their waters into blood, and killed their fish. 30 Their land abounded with frogs, even in the chambers of their kings. 31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, and lice in all their territory. 32 He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land. 33 He struck their vines also, and their fig trees, and splintered the trees of their territory. 34 He spoke, and locusts came, young locusts without number, 35 and ate up all the vegetation in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground. 36 He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, the first of all their strength. 37 He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes. 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them had fallen upon them.

Once again God allowed them to endure hardship for a time, for their good. He led them to call upon him and put their hope in him and long for the Promised Land. Then He delivered them with a dramatic demonstration of His power. In the end the Egyptians were urging them to leave and even gave them their silver and gold and told them to go. It's like we read in Psalm 30 a couple weeks ago, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." So don't be discouraged, trust in Him, call upon Him and He will restore you.

Verses 39-41

39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light in the night. 40 The people asked, and He brought quail, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; It ran in the dry places like a river.

This Psalm gives a very brief review of God's faithfulness to His people in the wilderness. Psalm 106 goes into more detail on that. Here He reminds us how God was faithful to lead them day by day and to provide for all their needs in the desert.

Now we come to the last **verses - 42 - 44** These summarize it all.

42 For He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham His servant. 43 He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness. 44 He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, And they inherited the labor of the nations,

The whole account of God bring Israel out of bondage in Egypt and leading them to the Land He promised to Abraham is a vivid picture of how God promised a Savior and then sent Jesus to deliver us from our slavery to sin and bondage to Satan. Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." John 8:34. We were under the power and control of Satan. He forced us to do what he wants, and our sinful flesh didn't mind because those are the things we desired. But that bondage led to death and eternal punishment. But Jesus led us out of that bondage, as the Apostle Paul says, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14) Jesus brought us out of that bondage when we were brought to faith and connected to His death and resurrection through baptism.

God also gave them the land that He had promised to Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob. They moved in to cities that were already built and vineyards that were already well established. It was truly "a Land flowing with milk and honey." That is a beautiful picture of our Promised Land of Heaven. For us, the Promised Land is still ahead of us. But this account assures us that God will bring us safely there.

Now the last verse tells us God's purpose for all of this. God brought them out of Egypt to their promised land so

*45 That they might observe His statutes and keep His laws.
Praise the Lord! (In Hebrew that's Hallelujah!)*

That is God's purpose in saving us, so we would keep His commands. Man always wants to turn that around. The Jews perverted God's law by turning it into a way that they could earn God's favour and salvation. They thought they would be saved because of their keeping the commandments. But this Psalm clearly says that we are saved so that we would keep His commandments.

The Apostle Paul says the same thing in Ephesians chapter 2. He says we "were dead in trespasses and sins." (Vs. 1) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." (Vs. 4-5) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Vs. 8-9. We were saved from our wretched sinful ways, our bondage by God's grace alone. Then Paul adds, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Vs. 10) God didn't save us because we loved Him and lived a good life. He saved us from our sinful life so that we would love Him and live a godly life.

That is our purpose in life, to love God and serve Him by keeping His commands.

Now let's go back to the first verses where God tells us how to praise Him with our lives. Verses 1&2 tell us how to serve Him with our mouths:

Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples!

2 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

Use your tongue to thank and praise God and tell everyone what He has done; How He has saved you from sin and death.

Verses 3-4 speak about how we glorify God in our heart. God wants our heart, He doesn't just want outward actions.

3 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! 4 Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

Three times God urges us to seek the LORD! Don't we already know the Lord? We have already been saved from the devil and brought into His kingdom by faith. Yet we are urged to seek Him. This is more than just believing in Him and worshiping Him when it is convenient. Some people seem to think that once they come to faith in Jesus they are His children and that's that. They don't really need to do anything. But God says to "Seek His face EVERMORE." To keep on seeking Him all our life.

We are to "seek ... His strength." We are weak. We are prone to going astray, to follow our own ways. We are quick to give into temptation. We need God's strength.

You students will be going back to school soon. There you will be in the minority. Your faith will be challenged every day. It is very important that you seek the Lord and His strength. We do that by making hearing God's word the first priority. Don't think, I have too much work to do to go to church or to listen to His voice. You need God's word to continually confirm your faith and strengthen you. And to be able to "Talk of His wondrous works" and "Make known His deeds."

And of course it is not just you students, every one of us desperately needs God's strength for our daily life to keep His commands and His laws.

God also commands us to "Seek His face." What does that mean? God told Aaron to place God's blessing upon the people by saying over them, "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make HIS FACE SHINE upon you and be gracious unto you." Num. 6:24-25. When God's face is shining upon us, that is when He is smiling upon us, everything will be good. To seek God's face is to seek His grace and favour. To come to Him in repentance and seek His forgiveness. God said, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

May we have the constant desire to be in God's presence and to know that He is smiling upon us. Come to Him and listen to Him in His word; and call upon Him in every need. May we all be like King David who said to God in Psalm 27:8, "When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek.""

So remember all that God has done for you. He is faithful and loving. He has saved us from sin and death, and He is leading us to our Promised Land. May we love Him and serve Him with our whole heart. May we seek His face daily and serve Him in righteousness.

Amen.