

PSALM 105

The LORD'S Wonderful Works in Behalf of Israel.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (4-17-96).
- B. "Praising God for What He did for Israel."
- C. In Psa. 104, praises were given to God for His blessings in creation. In this psalm, praises are given for the blessings that He had given the people of God, starting with Abraham. It is something of a chronological review of God's guidance and protection of those who serve Him. This psalm of praise does not mention their rebellion and unfaithfulness in the wilderness, which some psalms (Psa. 78:8,10,11,17-22,32,33,36,37,etc.) used to emphasize even more, the mercy and grace of God.
- D. There is no information given of either the psalmist or the occasion. It is evident that the first 15 verses of this psalm are almost exactly the same as 1Chron. 16:8-22 which was a psalm that David gave to Asaph (see 1Chr. 16:7).
- E. The occasion for David's psalm was the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem to the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Some think that this psalm is the original, and others that David's psalm was the original: we cannot determine this.
- F. Clyde M. Miller, *Living Word Commentaries: Psalms*, (p. 351), suggests that the expression of praise to God at the end of Psalm 104 may have been the beginning of this psalm. This would make the Psa. 103-106 uniform by each beginning in the same way. He also observes that Psa. 105 and 106 are both historical psalms as was Psa. 78. They do make an excellent comparison for studying together.
- G. This psalm seems to have seven natural divisions:
 - I. Introduction (105:1-5).
 - II. Thanksgiving for God's Blessings on the Patriarchs (105:6-12).
 - III. God's Guidance to Egypt and Out of Egypt (105:13-23).
 - IV. God's Goodness When Israel Was Oppressed (105:24,25).
 - V. God's Deliverance From Egypt (105:26-38).
 - VI. God's Mercies In the Wilderness (105:39-41).
 - VII. God's Gift of the Land of Canaan (105:42-45).

THE TEXT.

- 105:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.
- 2** Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders.
- 3** Glory in His holy name;
Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.
- 4** Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.
- 5** Remember His wonders which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth,
- 6** O seed of Abraham, His servant,
O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!
- 7** He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
- 8** He has remembered His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,
- 9** The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac.
- 10** Then He 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 portion of your inheritance,"
12 When they were only a few men in number,
Very few, and strangers in it.
13 And they wandered about from nation to nation,
From *one* kingdom to another people.
14 He permitted no man to oppress them,
And He reprov'd kings for their sakes:
15 "Do not touch My anointed ones,
And do My prophets no harm."
16 And He called for a famine upon the land;
He broke the whole staff of bread.
17 He sent a man before them,
Joseph, *who* was sold as a slave.
18 They afflicted his feet with fetters,
He himself 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 peoples, and set him free.
21 He made him lord of his house
And ruler over all his possessions,
22 To imprison his princes at will,
That he might teach his elders wisdom.
23 Israel also came into Egypt;
Thus Jacob sojourn'd in the land of Ham.
24 And He caused His people to be very fruitful,
And made them stronger than their adversaries.
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 wondrous acts among them,
And miracles in the land of Ham.
28 He sent darkness and made *it* dark;
And they did not rebel against His words.
29 He turned their waters into blood
And caused their fish to die.
30 Their land swarmed with frogs
Even in the chambers of their kings.
31 He spoke, and there came a swarm of flies
And gnats in all their territory.
32 He gave them hail for rain,
And flaming fire in their land.
33 He struck down their vines also and their fig trees,
And shattered the trees of their territory.
34 He spoke, and locusts came,
And young locusts, even without number,
35 And ate up all vegetation in their land,
And ate up the fruit of their ground.
36 He also struck down all the firstborn in their land,
The first fruits of all their vigor.
37 Then He brought them out with silver and gold,
And among His tribes there was not one who stumbled.
38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
For the dread of them had fallen upon them.
39 He spread a cloud for a covering,
And fire to illumine by night.
40 They asked, and He brought quail,
And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

- 41 He opened the rock and water flowed out;
It ran in the dry places *like* a river.
- 42 For He remembered His holy word
With Abraham His servant;
- 43 And He brought forth His people with joy,
His chosen ones with a joyful shout.
- 44 He gave them also the lands of the nations,
That they might take possession of *the fruit of the peoples' labor,*
- 45 So that they might keep His statutes
And observe His laws,
Praise the LORD!

COMMENTS.

A. Introduction.

[v1,2] "...make known His deeds among the peoples!" God frequently commanded His people to "talk... of all His marvelous works" (v. 2). God always had an interest in all nations. Their source of information about these works was in their Scriptures. We are to "make known His deeds among the peoples" of the world today, especially of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross that all might have forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life in heaven.

B. Thanksgiving for God's Blessings on the Patriarchs.

Here the focus is on God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the children of Jacob in the Law at Sinai. God's blessings included his protection and guidance, as well as the land of Canaan that was given "as the allotment of your inheritance." God had promised the land to Abraham and his descendants, and Abraham showed his confidence in the promise by purchasing the cave of Machpelah IN CANAAN, as a family burial place.

C. God's Guidance to Egypt.

[v13,14] "When they went from one nation to another... He permitted no one to do them wrong...: Until God settled them in Canaan, they were nomads and wanderers. Certainly, God did rebuke kings for their sakes. (Pharaoh was rebuked in Gen. 12:17 and Abimelech in Gen. 10:7.)

[v16-23] God sent a famine to punish those who afflicted His servants, and sent Joseph to Egypt to prepare for Jacob's family to be preserved. God did not choose that Joseph be sold as a slave, but used what his brothers did to him for the good of Jacob's family.

D. God's Goodness When Israel was Oppressed.

[v24] "He... made them stronger than their enemies." Some question that Israel was stronger than Egypt, but Pharaoh said it was so (Ex. 1:9,10).

E. God's Deliverance from Egypt.

[v26] "He sent Moses His servant, and Aaron..." This is the first time that Moses and Aaron are mentioned in this review of God's wonderful works for Israel.

[v27-36] The psalmist reviews the plagues which punished the Egyptians and showed the power of the God of Israel. Not all of the plagues are mentioned and the order is changed for some of the others. But the purpose is not an exact listing, which is done in Ex. 7-12, but to illustrate how God delivered them w/wonderful works.

[v37,38] When the children of Israel left, God caused the Egyptians to give them gifts of gold, silver and other valuable possessions as part payment for the years of slavery.

F. God's Mercies in the Wilderness.

He led them, fed them, gave them drink and protected them in the desolate wilderness. He did not let the nations around them bother them.

G. God's Gift of the Land of Canaan.

[v42] "For He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham His servant." The promise was that the land he saw would be given to his descendants. See Gen. 13:14,15.

[v44] "He gave them the lands of the Gentiles...the labors of the nations." We think of Palestine as a single country. What LANDS did God give them?

[v45] “That they might observe His statutes and keep His laws.” Here is the reason God selected them for His people, and gave them his laws and a land where they were free to serve Him.