

Psalm 107

This Psalm was written to celebrate the Jews' return to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon.

Psalms 107:1-3 [New King James] *“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.”*

Verses 2 and 3 refer to the regathered community to worship in second temple.

The link between **verses 1, 43** and **Exodus 34:5-7** and the emphasis of the Creator God as Redeemer of Israel and Israel as the redeemed, show that they view themselves as being gathered from the world and all its dangers.

This same view should be in the minds of all true Christians for this exit from the world's society is mentioned by Jesus Christ, [John 17:16] and the apostles, [James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17].

The goodness of the Creator God is demonstrated by His enduring steadfast love, which is made known by His work of redemption, specified by a deliverance from their enemies and trouble.

Two Hebrew words used give us a deeper insight into the character of the Creator God.

The Hebrew word translated *“good”* is *“tôwb”* meaning kindness, pity, faithfulness and warm affection, the way that the Creator God regards His covenant people, [Exodus 2:24; Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Isaiah 49:14-15].

The Hebrew word translated *“redeemed”* is *“gâ'al”* the basic idea being that the *“next of kin”* to whom belongs the right to intervene and rescue his afflicted relative, [Ruth 3:9-13; Ruth 4:3-10].

Clearly the relationship is one of right rather than obligation, and as between the Creator God and His people it is entirely gracious that He should so relate Himself to true Christians and their misfortunes.

In its Biblical image *“gâ'al”* always contains the associated idea of *“paying a redemptive price.”*

This idea of redemption from trouble and lands or unwelcome attentions of other people continues through the Psalm.

The need for redemption is laid out before us in **verses 4-32** of this Psalm.

Redemption from personal insufficiency – [Psalms 107:4-9].

Human search for fellowship and fulfilment is examined in these verses.

Looking for a *“city to dwell in,”* a place of community and security, which is not found in this world's cities. [Please download and study the article on this website with the title *‘Cities In The World Tomorrow’* listed under the main heading *‘The World Tomorrow’*.]

The first human attempt to build a place of security was Nimrod, where he as a *“mighty hunter”* could protect the people from wild animals in Babylon. Nimrod used the city of Babylon as a power base to control the mass of people and human leaders have continued to follow his example.

Nimrod failed to provide salvation through this means and human leaders continue to fail.

Along with the lack of security comes a failure to find personal satisfaction and each human being is left with some degree of “*hunger and thirst*,” [verse 5].

All this is solved by prayer, which because it is set in trouble recognises personal insufficiency, [verse 6].

Relieved from distress, which makes life “*narrow and cramped*” in contrast to a life led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14-21 [New King James] *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”*

Contrasted to the future glorious “*liberty*” of those who are the created children of God.

Hebrews 11:8-10 [New King James] *“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”*

This world and its society is a “foreign country” to those who like Abraham look for a future inheritance in new world that is founded on the direct reign of the Creator God from the city of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 8:1-8 [New King James] *“Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervour I am zealous for her.” Thus says the LORD: “I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.” Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.” Thus says the LORD of hosts: “If it is marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvellous in My eyes?” says the LORD of hosts. Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness.””*

This is the city that the writer of Hebrews tells us Abraham was looking forward in time to dwell in.

Every true Christian can have the same vision of this new world tomorrow.

Psalms 107:8-9 [New King James] *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.”*

Humans can only find self-fulfilment by the steadfast love of their Creator working a miracle in their lives.

Psalms 107:10 [New King James] *“Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons,”*

This bondage is of the mind by the present ruler of society, Satan, whom the Creator God has allowed to continue to rule society, [1 John 5:19] so that humans can experience, in each generation, what life is like without the influence of the Creator God in it, and blinding them to the plan of God.

Blinding most of humanity to the very reason for the existence of human beings and the planned future the Creator God desires them to experience, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

2 Peter 3:9 [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that **all should come to repentance.**”*

First step to a life in harmony with the Creator God.

Psalms 107:11 [New King James] *“Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High,”*

Because the vast majority of humans reject God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and the wise counsel it offers, accepting instead human-based religions and human ideas like evolution, all to avoid submitting their lives to their Creator God.

Psalms 107:12-16 [New King James] *“Therefore He brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He has broken the gates of bronze, and cut the bars of iron in two.”*

If only human beings would cry out to the One and only true Creator God, for He is longing to save them from this slavery to ignorance and darkness that clouds their minds.

Psalms 107:17 [New King James] *“Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.”*

The Psalmist, inspired by the Creator God, calls all who reject Him “fools,” joining other wise men, [Psalms 14:1; Psalms 53:1; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 1:22; Proverbs 8:5; Proverbs 10:21; etc., etc.].

Psalms 107:18-20 [New King James] *“Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. **He sent His word and healed them,** and delivered them from their destructions.”*

Note such fools are “healed” by God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Psalms 107:21-22 [New King James] *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.”*

This wonderful patience and mercy of the Creator God is something we should constantly thank and praise Him for, and tell other people about.

Psalms 107:23-30 [New King James] *“Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, they see the works of the LORD, and His wonders in the deep. For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea. They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits’ end. Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.”*

All people, especially the people of God encounter ferocious storms in their lives, [Hebrews 12:5-11].

God is both the author, [verse 25] and their finisher, [verse 29] and the cry of the utterly needy, [verse 28] is sufficient for deliverance.

Psalms 107:31-32 [New King James] *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders.”*

The Psalmist sees such trials, that are key to developing the very Holy character of the Creator God, as something to thank the Creator God for and tell others of His merciful deliverance.

The Creator God uses trials and blessings in the lives of His people, true Christians, to prepare them for future wise rulership in His new world tomorrow, [Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13].

This future moulding of human beings into the “likeness,” [Genesis 1:26-27] that is the Holy character of the Creator God, will continue with the same format of trials and blessings, [Psalms 107:33-42].

The wise person will observe this work of the Creator God in the lives of others and their own, thanking the Creator God for His great love, patience and kindness, [verse 43].