

## Psalm 107: Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So

**Get on the Bus** – *What a text – many commentators believe that this forms the end to a trilogy of Psalm 105, 106, 107 – You knew had to mention the word Trilogy the week Star Wars came out – I got to go don't worry there will be no spoilers in this sermon*

- **But you will be glad to know we raised almost 6k towards the Christmas Mission's offering because four of your pastors wore Chewbacca Pajama Onesies to the theatre – I think we have a picture**
- **This text though does sort capstone a trilogy of chapters in which in (105:44) the promise land is given to the people – (106:47) *After their sin has exiled them from the land they cry out to be gathered back from the nations to the land – And Psalm (107) beginning with an answer to the prayer for return from exile in that they have been gathered back in the promise land from among the nations which is the backdrop for why they should praise Him in this Psalm!***
- **Unbeliever** – This is a great Sunday for you to be here because this text speaks declares that our God can and does deliver those in trouble if they will humble themselves and call it to Him – *And Christian the same is true for you today even if you are already following Him!*

**Pray**

**Opening Illustration** – *Have you ever known a child who got a nice gift and almost immediately was ungrateful for it? I mean maybe they played with the box instead – I was asking my brothers for examples from our childhood – One Christmas my youngest brother got a nice Dallas Cowboys watch (I don't want to talk about it!) and then when he lost to my twin brother and I in basketball HE THREW IT AGAINST THE WALL (that's right we won!)*

- **It is easy to see this in children – You want to say to the little girl “you're at Disney World! What a gift!” or we got you an electric car and you are playing with the box**
- **But we as the children of God are tempted and prone to this sort of behavior in something much greater where we become forgetful or ungrateful for what God has done on our behalf – We are prone to wonder!**

**Main Idea** – *The redeemed should continually thank God for His unfailing love demonstrated in His hearing our cries and delivering us from all kinds of troubles*

- **Spurgeon said the theme of this Psalm is Thanksgiving and the motives for it – And those motives we will unpack as we see what God has done in history so that we wont forget or be ungrateful for what He has done for us!**

### **I. Give Thanks to God (READ V. 1-3)**

**The Psalmist begins calling on the people of God to give thanks (grateful praise) to Him for His enduring Love which He has demonstrated to them as individuals and as a people – *And the occasion in this particular moment is in His delivering them from exile in Assyria and Babylon – They are called to remember what He has done and so speak of His unfailing love (THEY SHOULD SAY SO!)***

- **The congregation is called to remember that God has redeemed those who had experience great adversity in exile – *And they have been delivered because of His covenant fidelity despite their unfaithfulness and this love and mercy and goodness are not temporary but everlasting***
- **What is our response to this goodness and enduring mercy – *Let us say SO! Can I get an AMEN (everyone should try to work at least 1 amen in to this sermon)!***
- **Why should we they so? *Because they are a people for His possession that He has delivered from trouble and He has brought them back from exile among the nations (four corners of the World) – this should make us glad and should make us tell of what He has done... SAY SOMETHING!***

**Application – Be a people of thanksgiving in talk and song – *We should give thanks and praise for all the kinds of ways that God has delivered us (spiritual, psychological, physical, emotional)***

- **Unbeliever – *you should realize that even if you do not believe in God and you have been healed of something or delivered in some way that was from Him –*** And realize that even the breath you breathe right now is a sign of His goodness and mercy toward the children of men!

## II. Reasons to Give Thanks (V. 4-42)

### a. Give Thanks for His Redemption (V. 4-32)

The Psalmist now gives four scenes that should prompt gratitude to God for what He has done in delivering through His redeeming love – 2 Things to note before we jump in:

- 1) **There is some debate if this is one group of people who were delivered in four ways or if this is four different groups who are now gathered as one –** *I would lean to the later because it seems the text is highlighting the corporate nature of deliverance that these four different groups are not gathered as one to praise God for the different ways He has delivered them BUT THERE IS REALLY NO WAY OF KNOWING*
- 2) **There is also some debate if those mentioned in these 4 scenes are all part of God’s people or if it is just speaking of humanity in general –** *I think based on verse 2 that this Psalm is a call to the redeem to recall how God has delivered Him so this is speaking about His covenant people – However in some of the scenes depicted God has certainly delivered those outside of the covenant people in these ways* (i.e. Paul is delivered through shipwreck and so are the unbelieving sailors with him who experience THE COMMON GRACE OF GOD)
  - a. **Unbeliever –** *The call of the text however is to recognize the grace of God and call out to Him and turn to Him in praise –* If you do not ultimately turn to Him He will not ultimately spare you so do not presume upon the grace of God!
  - b. **Believer –** *As we go through these 4 scenes we should see our similarities and the spiritual realities of these 4 physical scenes –* We have been redeemed and gathered as a marked people (the Church) who gather to give thanks to God as we preach and sing the gospel to one another!

#### i. He Brings the Wanderer Home (READ v. 4-9)

**One group God delivered was the homeless who wandered in deserts with no place to dwell and thus they were hungry and thirsty and faint –** *The text doesn’t specifically mention sin here BUT THE PUNISHMENT FOR COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS WAS EXILE FROM THE LAND which seems to be expressed here in that they have lost the land flowing with milk and honey and now wander without the blessings of the dwelling place God had given them*

- **The same thing happened for our first parents as they were exiled out of the garden due to their rebellion –** *And not only them but as soon as Cain strikes down Able he is made to be a wanderer and he says it is a punishment to great to bear because outside the city there would be sparse food and drink and very little protection –* We should recognize that cities and governments as imperfect as they may be are gifts from God!

**When in this despair what should you do? What did the Israelites do? They Cried out (we see this in all 4 scenes) and God delivered them by leading them in the straight path to a city in which to dwell!**

- **And what does the Psalmist say should be the response to His saving acts? They should thank the Lord for His amazing and enduring love and for His wondrous works –** Chief among them His deliverance from Exile back in to the Promise Land!

How did this flesh itself out? *Love the verse He satisfies the longing soul and he fills the hungry souls with GOOD Things* (LIKE QUESO! BUT SPIRITUAL QUESO!) – God is the great satisfier of the soul pictured here in food, but pointing to a greater reality of spiritual filling

- We should see our spiritual state apart as all of us Post-Eden have been exiled from the presence of God and we are like the Prodigal who left his father's home to squander his inheritance in the far county in wild living – *And when he was so hungry he wanted to eat pig's food he came to his senses returned and cried out to the father in humility just to be a servant of the fathers and instead was received as a son and was fed the fattened Goat and given a home!*

Please here this this morning in the greater spiritual realm there is a need at our deepest level for greater deliverance – *And there is one who is bread to the hungry, and water of life to the thirsty, and rest to the weary, and a refuge to the homeless and who is leading us to a city who's builder is God Himself where we will never hunger or thirst again* – Oh turn to Christ and cry out to Him and find a Home and as His mother Mary would sing right before His birth "He has filled the hungry with good things!"

- Application – Lets be good neighbors to the needy in both physical and spiritual ways – *As we invite them in to this good home called the household of God and let's praise Him that He has given us a home both here and now but also in the age to come!*

ii. *He sets the Captives free (READ V. 10-16)*

Some of these he delivered from imprisonment and slavery – This is a group of prisoners and forced laborers who it says are sitting in darkness and in the very presence of death

- This group has brought the calamity on themselves because they had rebelled against their God's Words and despised His counsel – *The Lord breaks their spirit of rebellion with hard labor that breaks their spirit and makes their strength fail with no one to help them* – He was allowing them to see what life was like without His love or His help since they had acted as though they didn't want Him (IS THIS YOU? DO YOU SPURN THE WAYS OF GOD?)

But what grace do we see here in our God even though they have violated and rebelled He still hears them when they cry out here – *O, friend this is GRACE that He forgives even those of SPURN His counsel* – THIS WAS MY STORY!

- We see the enduring nature of God's covenant love here to His people in His willingness to forgive them despite their unfaithfulness when they cry out – *We are taught in the Scriptures that His kindness leads us to repentance* – EXPERIENCE HIS KINDNESS THIS MORNING IN REPENTING!
- What are the wondrous works they are to think Him for here? *Well He burst the chains of the captive apart* (Common language in the prophets of what would come in the Messianic age) *and He shatters (powerful) what were considered at the time the strongest doors imaginable*

Again there is a greater spiritual reality at play as all of us in this room have at one time been in jail cells of spiritual bondage due our sin from which we cannot free ourselves and we feel that condemnation – *The beautiful truth of this passage is if you cry out to God even when you have brought these spiritual chains on yourself there is one who can cut through your chains and can even take your judgment for you*

- There was one who stood up in the synagogue who read the prophecy of Isaiah that the Messiah had come to set the captives free and that He indeed was the one – *If you will turn to Him and cry out for Mercy – He will set you free from your lifelong slavery by His atoning work because you see his liberty for the captive and He is rest for the weary and heavy laden!*

Application – Believer and unbeliever develop a life of repentance – *Christians often talk about praying the sinner's prayer which is usually some sort of prayer where one asks Jesus in to your heart* – But the real

sinner's prayer IS THE PRAYER OF THE TAX COLLECTOR who is so burdened he cannot even look up and yet He beats His chest and says "Lord have mercy upon me a sinner"

- This sinner's prayer is not just for the beginning of the Christian life – *But is the Christian life as we continually recognize our sin cry out for mercy ... and He has mercy in abundance!*
- And then lets sing of His deliverance: *"my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed Thee"* – Jesus sets the captives free!

iii. He heals those afflicted with various diseases (v. 17-22)

**Some of these were those afflicted with diseases and debilitating illness because of their foolishness – in modern day times might picture the drug addict who has all kinds of health issues because of his sin and here the sickness is so severe the one is close to death where even food is despised**

- This is how things work right if you are foolish and eat tire rubber or gas station hamburgers you are going to get sick – *But in a much greater way we will reap the consequences of our sin and this may lead to serious illness*
- *And once again we see the Amazing Grace of God in delivering even the foolish when they cry out to Him!*

What are His wondrous works here, how does He heal them? *He sends out His word and it heals them and delivers them from destruction even able to deliver them from the impending grave* – The Word here is personified and seen as the agent of redemption because in the Word are words of life!

- How glorious is this reversal as the very thing they rebelled against becomes the very thing that heals and comforts them – *Isn't this always so when it comes to instruction?*
- **We despise our parent's instructions when they say we cant touch the stove, or play in the street, or eat a dozen donuts** – *And yet that very thing you despise ends up being for your good even when you don't see it! (LISTEN CHILDREN! PARENTS THAT WAS FOR FREE!)*

And here again we have to look to the greater Spiritual Reality – *Some in this room may have been delivered from serious illness and God is to be praised for that* – But all of us in this room suffer from spiritual sickness and affliction which has been brought on by our iniquity

- In fact our condition is far worse than sickness we are actually dead in our trespasses and the wages of our rejection of God's counsel is not only sickness the wages of sin is death (*which is the rightful punishment for our disobedience whether that is a child to parents or us to God*) – *But what if God has made a way for healing through sending His Word and what if His Word isn't just a set of letters on a page?*
- What if His Word actually took on DNA and a bloodtype and became a man, a man who can heal paralytics who are dropped in to houses and who say to a little dead girl "talitha Cum" and she wakes up? *And what if we cried out to this Word made flesh for mercy and healing and for forgiveness for iniquities that has us under the wrath of God?*

Well friend that is what Christmas is all about the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us as the Lamb of God that will take away the Sins of the World and who will bring healing and life and who is leading us to a place with no diseases – *You see in the short term disease may get the best of us but when Jesus settles our bigger problem (our sin problem just like He did for the paralytic) and in the long run he is taking us to a place WHERE THERE ARE NO CRACK ADDICT WITHDRAWALS and where bodies riddled by disease are made as like and fair as His! He is the Word that Brings Life!*

**Application** – In light of this reality the Israelites are called on to offer sacrifices of thanksgiving – for us Paul calls on us to offer our lives to God because of His healing love!

- They are also called on to sing – we are told of His deeds in songs of Joy – *This means some of you need to sing* – Why is it you can get so pumped about a ball game and yet at a church gathering you look SO SOMBER AND STOIC
- If you cannot sing for what He has done you may not understand the gravity of what He has done – *Or maybe you haven't experienced His saving grace at all, it is something to consider!*

#### iv. He calms the Seas (READ v. 23-32)

Some of those delivered were on ships in the deep and were threatened by the Sea to the point of imminent shipwreck – *In many ways this scene is a reminder to us of how little we are and that our lives are lived as Kidner says “by permission, not by good management”*

- In fact the sea is so violent here the ship is being tossed about as a plaything and the men are so tossed about it says they stagger like drunk men and they were at their wits end – *which literally means their skill as sailors could do nothing for them at this point the storm had so tossed them about in a moment in which Tony says any of us might be tempted to cuss “to cuss like a sailor!”*
- Ever been dizzy cause you've been tossed or turned about – *Last night in our Elder Christmas party I won a piñata and I was turned around 15 times before I could hit and I felt dizzy and sick – I remember now why I don't ride rides that go in circles*
- When we were kids my twin brother and I used to have to get tubes in our ears and the anesthesia would make appear as though we were drunk – *So my dad would invite his friends over to watch us walk around and fall* – hey I don't blame him they didn't have YouTube back then!

In this scene we are seeing clearly the power and dominion of God – *He has power even over the chaotic seas* – Its amazing if you think about it water is a force that is impossible to stop and yet by His powerful word seas stop where they do!

- *And so in the similar refrain they call out and He tells the waters be still and they are calm so that He can lead them safely home and it says they were glad – WELL YEAH!*

To really understand this text we likely would need to of been on a boat that had a real rough waves – *But I won't even jump in the lake (I mean there are snakes and Chevys in there!)* – But perhaps you have been a situation where you are at your wits end and are completely out of control I think of being on a plane with great turbulence and yet God is in control and has Dominion!

- The greater spiritual reality here is that there are times when all seems right with world and we are in control and then the next minute we are helpless and even our best laid plans will mean nothing – *But if we will cry out God will either be our rest in the storm by calming it or He will be our refuge and walk us through it* – This is a call to put your hope and dependence in God who will deliver you either in this life or in the one to come!

*And Let's be reminded there was another like these men in this text and like Jonah who would find Himself on a boat being tossed about in the sea and yet this one would have the presumption to rebuke the wind and waters to be still and the waters listened – *And the people with Him in the boat are stunned “Who is this man they ask!”**

- They were beginning to realize they were in the presence of God Himself because they knew Psalm 107 that only God has the power to silence the seas – *And you see Christian and non-Christian alike this Jesus of Nazareth if you will cry out to Him can bring you safely through the storm Home and we will be Glad!*

And then what is our response? Like the children of Israel here – *It is to gather and praise Him in the assembly for what He has done! Jesus calms the Seas!*

## b. Give Thanks for His Sovereignty (READ V. 33-42)

The text now discards the pattern of distress or calamity then crying out and deliverance leading to thanksgiving to give us a capstone highlighting the sovereignty of God – *And we particularly see this magnified here in scenarios of Great Reversals that supplement the scenes already mentioned while particularly calling to mind the first one with the wanderer without food!*

- Isn't it wonderful when you see a movie where there is a **Ironic twist of the Script at some point** – Well God in History provides the ultimate moments of Irony – *Here He makes the prosperous land barren of the evil and He makes barren land fruitful and abundant for His people* – He makes the desert pools of water, that just sounds refreshing!
- And not only does He make fruitful land barren, and barren land fruitful but He also brings the mighty Low – *Nebuchadnezzar – who gloated over what he had built in Babylong and God made him crawl on the ground like a cow eating grass for 7 years until Nebby recognized where true glory rests!* – And He raises up the lowly (Mary!) if they will cry out to Him

So to His people (like the first group) He gives a flourishing city where there are prospering vineyards () and plenty of Tbone steaks walking around (I!) – *And to the oppressors (the princes) He gives a wasteland and wandering with no city – God turns the tables – And the upright (meaning God's faithful people) perceive this and they are GLAD*

- **Are you glad this morning?** Consider this during the Christmas season the abundant blessings of God!
- *The wicked are speechless at what He has done as in this great twist those who had suffered now enjoy prosperity while those who were prosperous and had inflicted misery will be frustrated and distressed* – and so it is as the wicked will not prosper forever!

**Application – Revere God** – *He is sovereign over the affairs of men and He can bring Low or He can lift up – Cry out to Him in repentance and faith!*

## III. Consider These Things to be Wise (READ v. 43)

The wise will perceive the things we have mentioned as they ponder the enduring love of God made manifest in many ways here – *and such pondering leads to further gratefulness and greater wisdom (whoever is wise “will observe these things and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord – NKJV) – Do you understand it? And do you continually observe it?*

- The Scriptures first (paritucarly in historical narratives) and then your own stories second can be great sources of reflectiong of the goodness of God – recount these to yourself and to one another (GG/Say So Services)
- *Christian rejoice this morning that the goodness of God is not philosophical or speculative but is grounded in History, in historical demonstrations of His covenant faithfulness ponder these things to be wise-* just like young Mary did during the birth of her Son

One of the beautiful things in this text is that regardless of situation when they cried out he heard them and gave them what they needed (community, forgiveness, healing, and home or haven) – *so what we can see is whether you are in a situation that you broughout on yourself or that is part of being in a fallen world the love of God is not received by merit but as a gift and you can get hold of it not by trying harder but by crying out! So cry out like the Tax collector!*

**Conclusion** – all of this ultimately pointing us to greter deliverance - Deliverance from our greatest problem that curse of sin which is death and He would accomplish this through sending His Son

- Consider the staggering magnitude of the Incarnation – *The Eternal God with us (not some distant clock maker) – God does not stay distant from His neople but becomes like them*

- So humbling Himself during the incarnation that the Creator of the universe will need **milk** to live, **the Sovereign of all creation will have to have His diapers changed – The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God (Lewis)**
- How staggering is the Incarnation? **“Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, and yet born of a woman... Supporting a universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms.” (Spurgeon)**
- **And no wonder Queen Lucy can say in the Last Battle “Yes, In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.” (p. 140)**

**And here me Believer and non-Believer He has come to deliver in the greatest twist of all time as He the only sinless stood in the place of sinners to deliver sinners from the curse - *and He showed He could accomplish all of this in ultimate twist of all just three days after drowning in His own blood God heard His cries and delivered Him and on a Sunday morning like this one this dead man became an ex-dead man and walked out in to the light as the vindicated Son***

- **That is the glorious news of the incarnation, God did not remain distant from us and our plight but entered in and took on our plight to share us from our plight!**
- **Jesus has overcome our greatest fears of hunger, imprisonment, great sickness, and even death itself as He experienced all of it on our behalf! *Oh see the grace of God!***

**This then just raises one question as we close for everyone in the room – Are you among the redeemed? if not repent and cry out to Him, don't just give a tip of the cap to Jesus but cry out to Him and fall on His mercy!**

- **And then just ultimately one response – *If you are! Say So!*** Thank Him that is the mark of a Christians whereas the unregenerate neither glorifies God nor gives thanks to Him (Romans 1)
- **Christian lets not be like ungrateful children with the gifts the Father has lavished upon us - *But instead lets be those that Praise Him and tell of His great Love and let us be those who joyful sing things like “through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come. Tis Grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home!”***

Prayer – father may we hide these things in heart and ponder them so that we being ed by the spirit might understand he things freely given us by God!