

Psalm 107

- 1. O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.**
- 2. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**
- 3. And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.**
- 4. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.**
- 5. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.**
- 6. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.**
- 7. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.**
- 8. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**
- 9. For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.**

Psa 107

- 43. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.**

Summer In The Psalms 2 - #10 – Love Story

Psalm 107:1-8+

I hope you have enjoyed our *Summer In The Psalms*. Today, we conclude this series with our final installment – Psalm 107.

As far as I could verify in my files, I have used portions of the Psalm over the years mostly for Thanksgiving. It's obvious, right?! The first words are "***O Give Thanks!***" And then there are multiples of reasons listed.

But - When I pulled up and decided to park here... dive in... tear it apart... see what God preserved for us - **as always, I guess, I was amazed.**

**This is a love story! Right here in Psalms. A Love...
Infinite. Eternal. Lifechanging.**

The Journey of the Psalmist begun in vs. 1 ends in vs. 43 -

"Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even **they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.**" - Psalm 107:43

Another translation worded it like this:

"If you are really wise, you'll think this over— it's time you appreciated GOD's deep love." (The Message)

How many of you have ever thought of Psalm 107 that way?

This is God's Love Story, right out of the Psalms!

It is important all of the time, and especially today, to approach our Psalm understanding that there are layers of application:

- **The Particular Application:** There are the people to whom the Psalmist wrote, usually Israel, who would know all of the back stories and references. It had a particularly meaning to them – lessons and history and applications – that we usually miss, and frankly, weren't really meant for us.
- **The Prophetic Applications:** As in many of the Psalms, there are prophetic glimpses of things still yet to come shadowed in the words from long ago.

- **Then, there is personal, eternal truth.**
 - The reason it was preserved and included in God's eternal Word.
 - The reason New Testament believers were directed to the Psalms.
 - The reason *reflected in the Words of Jesus* -
"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39

Our Psalm today has a message from the heart of God, delivered through the Psalmist, sung through the years, preserved in God's Word intended for You, and me, today.

I. The Song Of The Redeemed. Vs. 1-7

Every great love story has at least **One who loves** and **at least one who receives that love.** **The Psalmist writes of both.**

A. The Psalmist begins with, repeats over and over, and ends with "LORD".
"O Give thanks unto the LORD..."

Though other words for God are used, God – "El", and "Most High",

The One

- With whom the song begins,
 - Whose love is displayed throughout,
 - Mentioned over and over like waves of the ocean,
- Is "LORD" - Jehovah. Yahweh. New Testament – Jesus!**

B. Those addressed – The "loved": "*the redeemed of the LORD*". Vs. 2

1. The Historical Symbol (Experience) – vs. 2-7.

Maybe the children of Israel in Bondage in Egypt?

Maybe another historical redemption?

What we do read is desperate, hopeless, vast.

We don't completely get it or understand.

So - Why is it here, and why spend our time on it this morning?

- It is **where their journey began**. Where **their story started**. Every love story must have a beginning!

BUT – For us...

- Jesus said, **“they... testify of me”**

2. The substance of the historical symbol: Bigger Picture of Redemption.

Peter wrote of redemption **before the world began** –

*“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

*Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you” 1 Peter 1:18-20*

Job, probably the oldest book and therefore narrative of Scripture, proclaimed –

*For I know that **my redeemer liveth**, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth... Job 19:25-26*

In the ages to come, **we** will join the join in the song of the ages –

*Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”** Rev. 5:9*

Jesus – “Search the Scriptures” – This obscure historical reference is a cameo of love!

C. The heart “clue”: vs. 1+

- This is **not a list of truths; this is a love song** for the soul!
- **The first sound** – **“O!”** - Not a statement of fact but an utterance of deep feeling
- Throughout – **“Oh...”**
Stories are told...
Truths are shared...
But **this is a song for the soul.**

D. The Response of those so deeply loved.

How can we respond? How should we respond?

There are many answers in life and Scripture.

The Psalmist –

“Give thanks!”

“Praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works”

(I. The Song Of The Redeemed)

II. The Stories of His Love.

One phrase introduces each story: Vs. 8, 15, 21, 31

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! - Psalm 107:8

Most believe that these are historical snapshots of Israel's history. Times they went through and lessons they learned.

Rather than bury ourselves in history and presume to understand what they understood inherently, we will learn the bigger truth of “His Story”

Note:

- These can each portray what He did for us in Redemption. Or,
- They are what God has in various times done in the lives of His children. .

A. #1: Lost in the desert. Vs. 4-9

B. #2: Locked in a dungeon. Vs. 10-16

C. #3: Lying on a deathbed. Vs. 17-22

D. #4: Languishing in the deep. The storm. Vs. 23-32

That's us!

Every believer has lived in one of those places, maybe more.
Some literally. All spiritually.

III. The Summary vs. 31-43

The Psalmist leads us *from the diary of history* - reminders of redemption – to *the schoolhouse of learning*. He turns from the past to the present.

The big question: **So, what now?**

A. The call to praise! Vs. 32

B. The consciousness of who God is! Vs. 33-38

Love. Mercy. Goodness. Eternity. Yes.

But - The LORD of Love is the LORD of Consequences.

It is He who “created”

- The principles of *cause and effect, choices and consequences*
- *The law of the harvest*

He is the Righteous God who must deal with unrighteousness, the God of consequence who has promised our choices would have consequences.

1. Vs. 33-34: When we sin...

He (and our sins themselves – **natural and spiritual consequences**) turns our world upside down, ruining it and robbing it of what could be.

Why? He loves us too much to let us live without His intervention.

Cf. Hebrews 12

2. Vs. 35-38: When we love Him and live for Him, He... vs. 35-38

C. The caution (cause) – vs. 39-42

Beware anyone or anything that would lead us from Him and His love!

D. The Conclusion: vs. 43

- Be wise!
- **“Understand the lovingkindness of the Lord”!**
- Learn and live in His love!
 - **Live the daily love song...**
 - **Enjoy the dance** of God and us and God and us... forever!

A Love Story?

Oh yeah! Better than any Hallmark movie or silver screen wonder.

His Eternal Love Story Is One Of...

- An impossible relationship
- Insurmountable obstacles
- A love great than all...

That looked beyond what was to what could be

That was willing to pay the price of possibility

That was big enough to cover – everyone. Everything.

- A love purchased and provided, but never forced.

The Gospel doesn't merely reveal that God loves.

It reveals a God who comes to those who cannot come to Him.

"For God so loved the world that He gave..." Jn. 3:16

That's not merely romance. That's redemption.

"...that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

That is the Song Of The Redeemed!

Every love story has moments where someone asks, ***"Will they make it?"***
I wonder...

The Psalmist ends – ***"understand the lovingkindness of the LORD."***

We can... Ignore it. Resist it. Reject it.

Miss out on all that could be, and instead suffer...

Or

We can

Receive Him and His love...

Let Him rescue us, right the wrongs and write the story of His lovingkindness on the eternal pages of our lives!

If you've never trusted Jesus, been redeemed and made His child forever –
I encourage you to do so now. As the Psalmist wrote,

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psa 34:8