Psalms 105

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 105 - and as we make our way to the 105th Psalm…

…I should take a moment to point out that the author of this Psalm remained anonymous in the Hebrew version of the Bible.

At the same time - you might like to know that the first fifteen verses of this Psalm are found in 1 Chronicles chapter 16 - verses 8-22.

And it's there where we learn that this was actually a psalm written by King David…

…and specifically for the day - when the ark of God was set it in the midst of the tabernacle…

…that King David commissioned - on Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

What this means is that the first 15 verses of this chapter were written by King David.

And while we can't say for sure if David wrote the remaining verses…

…it's my guess that He was the one who expanded upon his own song…

…by presenting 30 more verses that focus on the faithfulness of the Lord.

At the same time - this could also be the work of another Psalmist - who used the Psalm of David as a launching point…

…for reminding the children of Israel about the covenant that the Lord made with Abraham - Isaac and Jacob.

Here's how theologian Albert Barnes explained it - in his commentary of this Psalm…

Probably the author of this psalm found in the one composed by David what was suitable to the occasion on which this was composed, and adopted it without any material change. In the remainder of the psalm, he has simply carried out in the history of the Jews what was suggested by David in the psalm in 1 Chronicles 16, and has applied the idea to the other events of the Jewish history, as furnishing a ground of praise. The psalm is a mere summary of the principal events of that history to the time when the people entered the promised land - as laying the foundation of praise to God.

So - according to Barnes - this Psalm was written by another Psalmist…

…who used the lyrics of King David's Psalm - as a launching point for a lyrical history lesson…

…about the Lord's faithfulness to the nation of Israel.

And all of this - so that the children of Israel would be inspired to give thanks to the Lord.

Well - regardless of who write this psalm - it's my hope that the lyrics of the Psalm will inspire us to become people of Praise.

And as we consider how the Lord has been faithful to keep His covenant with Abraham…

…it's also my prayer that we will also result in the assurance - that God will also be faithful to those…

…who also walk according to the faith of Abraham.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 105th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where we read…

Psa 105:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Psa 105:2 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!
Psa 105:3 Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!
Psa 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face evermore!
Psa 105:5 Remember His marvelous works which He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,
Psa 105:6 O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

Here in the beginning of this psalm - we find King David - encouraging his audience to give thanks to the LORD.

And knowing that there are times - when we might find it difficult to be thankful…

…the Psalmist presented a list of action items - that will help us to have a heart that is filled with gratitude.

For example - it's there in the second half of verse 1 - where he encouraged his audience to…

Psa 105:1 Call upon His name; (and)
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Psa 105:2 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!

Christian - listen - if you're struggling to give thanks to the Lord…

…you should spend some time - sharing the wonderful works of the Lord - with other people.

And in this way - we will shift our focus from the things that depress us…

…to the things that the Lord has already done for us.

We should also consider the counsel that King David presented - there in verses 3 and 4 - where he declared…

Psa 105:3 Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!
Psa 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face evermore!

If you're struggling to give thanks to the Lord - then - you should spend more time seeking His face.

The reason why is because - those who spend time seeking the Lord - will rejoice with a heart that is filled with gratitude.

We should also consider the counsel that King David presented - there in verses 5 and 6 - where he declared…

Psa 105:5 Remember His marvelous works which He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,
Psa 105:6 O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

If you're struggling to give thanks to the Lord - then - the chances are…

…you've forgotten about the marvelous works which He has already accomplished.

And so - as we seek His face - we should also meditate on the marvelous works…

…AND the miraculous wonders that He has already accomplished.

And with this as our focus - we'll be compelled to give thanks to the LORD!

…as we Call upon His holy name.

With this as the goal - King David took the time to remind his audience - about the Lord's covenant - with Abraham - Isaac and Jacob.

Let's consider how he put it - here in the 105th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 7 - where David declared…

Psa 105:7 He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
Psa 105:8 He remembers His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,
Psa 105:9 The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac,
Psa 105:10 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,
Psa 105:11 Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
As the allotment of your inheritance,"
Psa 105:12 When they were few in number,
Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

Here in these verses - we find Kings David - reminding his audience - about the Abrahamic covenant.

This covenant was then extended to Isaac - and then transferred to Isaac's son - Jacob - who was then named Israel.

And just to be clear - King David wasn't talking about the Mosaic covenant…

…no - instead - he was pointing back to the Abrahamic covenant.

We find this in Genesis chapter 12 - where the Lord declared…

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:
"Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father's house,
To a land that I will show you.
Gen 12:2 I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Here in these verses - we find the Lord - promising to bless Father Abraham - by creating a great nation from his promised child.

And in this way - the Lord was prophetically promising to bless the descendants of Isaac and Jacob…

…by providing the nation of Israel with the land of promise.

Not only that - but - the Lord also promised to bless the nations that bless Abraham.

And as we consider how this covenant was transferred to Isaac and then to Jacob…

…we can be certain that the nations that now bless Israel will be blessed.

And at the same time - the nations that curse Israel will be cursed.

Sadly - there are many in the world who disregard the everlasting covenant that the Lord made with Israel.

And there's a growing number of churchgoers - who have no problem - rejecting the promise that God made to Abraham.

As a result - the church is now filled with anti-zionists who insist that…

…the nation of Israel has no right to defend their land - against Islamic terrorists.

With this in mind - let's take another look at King David's claim made - here in the 105th Psalm - it's beginning at verse 8 - where he declared…

Psa 105:8 He remembers His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,
Psa 105:9 The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac,
Psa 105:10 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,
Psa 105:11 Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
As the allotment of your inheritance,"
Psa 105:12 When they were few in number,
Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

The Abrahamic covenant that the Lord made with Abraham - Isaac and Jacob - - is an everlasting covenant that belongs to Israel.

And just to be clear - this covenant includes the promise of land…

…which belongs to Israel - as their forever inheritance.

That being the case - Christians will do well to rejoice in the fact that…

…the Lord will faithfully fulfill the Abrahamic covenant - according to His righteousness.

King David also encouraged his audience - to remember how the Lord protected them from their enemies.

Let's consider how he explained it - here in the 105th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 13 - where he declared…

Psa 105:13 When they went from one nation to another,
From one kingdom to another people,
Psa 105:14 He permitted no one to do them wrong;
Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,
Psa 105:15 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones,
And do My prophets no harm."

Here in these verses - we find King David - reminding his readers about the way that the Lord protected His people from their enemies.

And while it's true that there are times when the Lord raised up the enemies of Israel to punish them - in times of rebellion…

…it's also true that He always spared a remnant of those who were committed to His covenant with them.

And listen - this is also true today.

This was the point that Paul was making in Romans chapter 11 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he asked…

Rom 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
Rom 11:2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,
Rom 11:3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?
Rom 11:4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."
Rom 11:5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

As we consider the point that Paul was making - I can't help but to wonder why so many in the church today now believe that…

…the church has replaced Israel - and therefore - the Abrahamic covenant is now obsolete.

Nope - God has NOT cast away His people - who are Israelite.

And while it's true that not all Israel is of the faith of Abraham…

…it's also true that the church has not replaced Israel.

The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable

At this point in our study - we're moving past the verses that we know were written by King David - and into a section that was written by an unknown author.

With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of the 105th psalm - beginning there at verse 16 - where the psalmist declared…

Psa 105:16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land;
He destroyed all the provision of bread.
Psa 105:17 He sent a man before them—
Joseph—who was sold as a slave.
Psa 105:18 They hurt his feet with fetters,
He was laid in irons.
Psa 105:19 Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him.
Psa 105:20 The king sent and released him,
The ruler of the people let him go free.
Psa 105:21 He made him lord of his house,
And ruler of all his possessions,
Psa 105:22 To bind his princes at his pleasure,
And teach his elders wisdom.

Here in these verses - we find the psalmist - reminding his readers about the days…

…when the sons of Israel sold their 17-year-old brother Joseph into slavery…

…to a passing caravan of Midianite and Ishmaelite traders for 20 shekels of silver.

The reason why is because - they were jealous of the favor he had with their father.

And while it's true that they meant this for evil - it's also true that the Lord allowed this - for the good of His people.

As a matter of fact - Joseph ended up becoming the second most powerful man in all of Egypt.

And when a famine forced his family to seek shelter in Egypt…

…Joseph was there to provide them with a place for his people to flourish.

Christian - listen - there are times when God allows bad things to happen to us - which in the moment - seems like a horrific situation.

And yet - we must remember that - our God is able to work ALL things together…

…for the good of those who love Him - and for those who are called according to His purposes.

And while the enemy has a plan to attack us - with evil intention…

…the Lord is able to use it - for our good.

And in this - we can rejoice.

With this as our focus - let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - - here in the 105th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 23 - where we learn that…

Psa 105:23 Israel also came into Egypt,
And Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.
Psa 105:24 He increased His people greatly,
And made them stronger than their enemies.
Psa 105:25 He turned their heart to hate His people,
To deal craftily with His servants.

Here in these verses - we learn about the way in which the Lord blessed His people - there in the land of Egypt.

And we must not forget that - the Lord used the evil scheme of Israel's sons…

…to place Joseph in the second most powerful postion in Egypt.

And it was from that postion of power - that the Lord increased His people…

…and made them stronger than the Egyptians - while they were living in the land of Egypt.

And it's for this reason that an evil pharaoh eventually enslaved them.

Thankfully - the Lord raised up a man - who would lead them back to the land of their inheritance.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 105th Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 26 - where we learn that…

Psa 105:26 He sent Moses His servant,
And Aaron whom He had chosen.
Psa 105:27 They performed His signs among them,
And wonders in the land of Ham.
Psa 105:28 He sent darkness, and made it dark;
And they did not rebel against His word.
Psa 105:29 He turned their waters into blood,
And killed their fish.
Psa 105:30 Their land abounded with frogs,
Even in the chambers of their kings.
Psa 105:31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
And lice in all their territory.
Psa 105:32 He gave them hail for rain,
And flaming fire in their land.
Psa 105:33 He struck their vines also, and their fig trees,
And splintered the trees of their territory.

Psa 105:34 He spoke, and locusts came,
Young locusts without number,
Psa 105:35 And ate up all the vegetation in their land,
And devoured the fruit of their ground.
Psa 105:36 He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land,
The first of all their strength.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - reminding his readers about the 10 plagues that the Lord used…

…in order to secure the freedom of His chosen people.

And as we consider these plagues - there should be no doubt that…

…the Lord was demonstrating His power - over the false gods of Egypt.

The first plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 7…

…was a judgment against Apis, the Egyptian god of the Nile - Isis the goddess of the Nile - and Khnum, guardian of the Nile.

The Lord demonstrates His power over these false gods - - by turning the Nile to blood.

And in this way - He also impacted the national economy of Egypt…

…as millions of fish died in the river - and the water was unusable.

The second plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 8…

…was a judgment against Heqet, the frog-headed goddess of birth.

In Egypt Frogs were thought to be sacred - - and so - the Lord sent this second plague…

…which included an invasion of frogs - that resulted in heaps of stinking bodies…

…which were piled up all through the land

The third plague - which is also described in Exodus chapter 8…

…was a judgment against Set - which was believe to be the god of the desert.

The Lord instructed Aaron to stretch out his hand with his rod in order to strike the dust of the earth…

…and that's when the dust became lice - that covered the Egyptians - and their animals.

And it was at that point in time - when the Pharaoh began to realize that this was the hand of God.

And yet - he hardened his heart against the Lord.

The fourth plague - which is also described in Exodus chapter 8…

…was a judgment against Uatchit, the Egyptian god of the flies.

And it was during this fourth plague - when God made a clear distinction…

…between the Israelites and the Egyptians - by making sure that…

…the swarms of flies stayed away from the areas where the Israelites lived.

The fifth plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 9…

…was a judgment against the goddess Hathor and the god Apis, who were both depicted as cattle.

This plague caused the death of the livestock - owned by the Egyptians…

…while the cattle of the Israelites were protected from this plague.

And it's for this reason that - the Pharaoh continued to harden his heart against the Lord.

The sixth plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 9…

…was a judgment against several gods over health and disease - including Sekhmet, Sunu, and Isis.

And according to Moses' account - the Lord caused boils to break out in sores on both man and beast.

And the sores were so painful - that the magicians of Egypt - - couldn't stand before him.

The seventh plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 9 - was a hailstorm - unlike anything they'd every seen.

This was a judgment against Nut - the Egyptian goddess of the sky - - Osiris - the crop fertility god - and Set - the storm god.

And listen - this hailstorm also included fire - which ran along the ground - as if there was a Direct Energy Weapon beam.

Not only that - but this storm devastated everything in it's path.

At the same time - the children of Israel were miraculously protected from this plague.

The eighth plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 10…

…was a judgment against the false gods - Nut - Osiris - and Set.

And according to Moses' account - the Lord sent a swarm of locusts into the land of Egypt.

And listen - the locusts not only consumed the later crops of wheat and rye….

…but - the locusts also covered the ground - and filled the houses of all the Egyptians.

…while avoiding the houses of the Israelites.

The ninth plague - which is described in Exodus chapter 10…

…was a judgment against the Egyptian sun god - Ra - who was allegedly manifest in the Pharaoh himself.

And while it was believed that the Pharaoh had the power of the sun…

…the Lord sent a plague of darkness over the land of Egypt - for three days…

…while the homes of the Israelites somehow had light.

And finally - it was the tenth and final plague - which is found in Exodus chapter 11…

…was a judgment on Isis - who was believed to be the protector of children.

And yet - Isis couldn't protect the first born sons of Egypt…

…form the 10th and final plague - that the Lord poured out on the land.

And yet - the Lord provided protection for every family that would offer up the sacrifice…

…of a passover lamb.

We know that the Passover Lamb was actually a prophetic placeholder - pointing to the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world.

I'm of course referring to the Lamb of God - - Jesus Christ…

…Who was crucified for our sins - during the Passover celebration.

And by faith in Jesus Christ - we are set free from the sinful bandage of Egypt.

Not only that - but - the Lord also blesses those who trust in His Passover lamb.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 105th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 37 - where we learn that…

Psa 105:37 He also brought them out with silver and gold,
And there was none feeble among His tribes.
Psa 105:38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
For the fear of them had fallen upon them.
Psa 105:39 He spread a cloud for a covering,
And fire to give light in the night.
Psa 105:40 The people asked, and He brought quail,
And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
Psa 105:41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
It ran in the dry places like a river.

Here in these verses - we find the psalmist - describing the way that the Lord provided His people with incredible riches…

…as the people of Egypt sent the Israelites away with their wealth.

Let's consider how Moses described the situation in Exodus 12 beginning at verse 35 - he declared…

Exo 12:35 Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.

Exo 12:36 And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

By the end of the 10 plagues - the Egyptians were so happy to see the Israelites leave…

…that they sent them away with all the wealth that they could carry.

Not only that - but - the Lord also led them with a pillar of cloud by day - and a pillar of fire by night.

He provided them with quail - and manna - and he quenched their thirst - with Water from a Rock that followed them in the wilderness.

And according to Paul - that Rock was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's consider how he explained it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 10 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared…

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
1Co 10:2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
1Co 10:3 all ate the same spiritual food,
1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

According to Paul - the Rock that provided the people of God with water in the wilderness…

…was actually a Christophany - - which is to say that - the Rock was a preincarnate manifestation of Christ Jesus.

And while I would love to explain this in greater detail…

…all I can say is that - the Lord works in mysterious ways.

We might consider something that Jesus declared on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

It's in John chapter 7 - beginning at verse 37 - where Jesus declared…

Jhn 7:37b "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
Jhn 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
Jhn 7:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The living water of the Lord is the refreshing power that we receive from the Holy Spirit of God.

And it's my guess that the Lord was Revealing this incredible truth to the Children of Israel…

…as they received the water that poured forth from the Rock that followed them in the wilderness.

And now that those who trust in Jesus have received the living water of the Holy Spirit…

…let's walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - so we can live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

The Psalmist concluded this song - by reminding his readers about the faithfulness of the Lord.

Let's consider how he put it - here in the 105th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 42 - where he declared…

Psa 105:42 For He remembered His holy promise,
And Abraham His servant.
Psa 105:43 He brought out His people with joy,
His chosen ones with gladness.
Psa 105:44 He gave them the lands of the Gentiles,
And they inherited the labor of the nations,

Psa 105:45 That they might observe His statutes
And keep His laws.
Praise the LORD!

Here in the final verses of this incredible psalm - we find the Psalmist encouraging his audience…

…to remember the holy promise that God made to Abraham.

This of course is another reference to the Abrahamic covenant which includes the promised land…

…that the Lord promised to provide his descendants - through Isaac and Jacob.

And while it's true that the people were carried away into captivity - by the Assyrians - and Babylonians - and dispersed by the Romans…

…the Lord has consistently brought them back into the land of promise…

…and the reason why is because - the Lord is faithful to keep His promises.

And as we consider how the Lord has faithfully kept the promise that He made to Abraham…

…we can rejoice in knowing that He will also keep the promises that He made…

…to those who trust in Jesus - according to the faith of Abraham.

Let's consider how Paul put it -

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.
Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.
Gal 3:17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.
Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Just like the Jews who trust in the promised Seed - according to the faith of Abraham…

…the Gentiles who trust in the promised Seed - are also blessed by faith in Jesus Christ.

And as we receive the promise of the Spirit - by faith in Jesus Christ…

…let's become those believers who give thanks to the LORD - as we Call upon His holy name.