

# 07.20.25: Psalm 107

## Loved, Redeemed, and Gathered

**Title:** Loved, Redeemed, and Gathered

**Scripture:** Psalm 107

**Main Idea:** Our testimony is a tool of instruction in the Lord's ways.

**Redemption** – to reclaim at a price; to pay a ransom to restore

### **Redemption is rooted in God's *hesed*.**

Chesed/Hesed –

- x249 in OT; 126 in Psalms
- Loyalty/covenant/commitment, favor, kindness, faithfulness, love, obligation
- Vs 1 – his “faithful love” / “great lovingkindness”
- Also in vs 8, 15, 21, 31, and 43 (the closing word of the psalm)
- So it begins and ends the psalm

### **Redemption is God's Answer to our Desperate Need.**

- Whether x4 distinct groups of people or four descriptions of the same group of people
- 4x pictures of our desperate situation
- The human condition captured in poetic imagery
- Wandered
  - not as in aimlessly walking around but as in straying from the path
  - unable to find their way to the destination
  - becoming more and more weary with each step: hunger, thirst, even to soul fainting
- Prisoners in chains
  - because of rebellion and despising the counsel of God;
  - darkness even unto death – lit the shadow of death
  - picture of cold steel chains and bars
  - irony of those enslaved to sin declaring that they are the free ones who can do whatever they want – Paul in Romans when we sin we are slave to sin
- Fools
  - Again because of rebellious ways and sin
  - Fool not meaning unintelligent but perverse
  - Reject even the things needed to live like food
  - “Sin will make you stupid”
- Those who went to sea
  - Whether to try to earn a living from the risk or to run from something (Jonah for example)
  - The overwhelming waves from great peaks to deep valleys
  - Being tossed about and completely disoriented – so much so that seamanship of no value; completely at the mercy of the weather
  - Even with all of our technology today, we still find ourselves at times at the mercy of the weather (recent catastrophic flooding in TX and before that in NC)
  - Reminder to us all of our littleness and humility - that as one scholar put it, we live by permission and not by management. There are things that are out of our control and these should push us not to question God but to submit humbly to him
- In each case, the answer is the same (6, 13, 19, 28) “They cried out to the Lord in their trouble”

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### **Loved, Redeemed, and Gathered**

- The process of redemption revealed
  - The recognition of our human condition
  - The cry of despair
  - The divine deliverance
  - The call to thanksgiving
  - The celebration of God's acts

#### **Redemption is the greatest of God's great reversals.**

- Reversals noted in vs 33-38 (desert/water/fields) and 39-42 (nobles/oppressed)
- God can take a seemingly hopeless situation and completely turn it around
- Both a negative (judgment) and positive (grace and mercy) side to God's reversals
- The greatest of his reversals is redemption
- Jesus on the cross – seems that sin, death, and satan have won; but God won victory through it all

#### **Redemption unites us in worship.**

- Gathered – vs 3
  - As we gather to worship each week, we do so as a collection of his redeemed just as Israel in the OT
  - Much like a family reunion a family patriarch and matriarch with all their children and grandchildren together brings joy and satisfaction; so too does our gathering for corporate worship
- Thankful – again another repeated refrain in the psalm “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love and his works for all humanity” (8, 15, 21, 31)
- Recalling the specific ways that God has delivered
  - He led them by the right path to a good destinations and filled the hungry and the thirsty
  - He brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke the chains and the iron bars
  - He sent his word and healed them and rescued them from their traps
  - He stilled the water and guided them into a safe harbor
- Vs 22 let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and announce his works with joy
- Vs 32 let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders
- Wisdom in considering/understanding (v 43)
  - Knowing God's ways
  - Celebrating God's redemption personally
  - Helping others find God's redemption