

Theme:

"Keep Living Close To God"

Psalms 105-106

Psalm 105

(New International Version)

¹ *Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.*

² *Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.*

³ *Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.*

⁴ *Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.*

⁵ *Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.*

⁷ *He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.*

⁸ *He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,*

⁹ *the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.*

¹⁰ *He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:*

¹¹ *◆ To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit. ◆*

12 When they were but few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in it,
13 they wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.
14 He allowed no one to oppress them;
for their sake he rebuked kings:
15 ♦ Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm. ♦

16 He called down famine on the land
and destroyed all their supplies of food;
17 and he sent a man before them ♦
Joseph, sold as a slave.

18 They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons,
19 till what he foretold came to pass,
till the word of the LORD proved him true.

20 The king sent and released him,
the ruler of peoples set him free.
21 He made him master of his household,
ruler over all he possessed,
22 to instruct his princes as he pleased
and teach his elders wisdom.

23 Then Israel entered Egypt;
Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

24 The LORD made his people very fruitful;
he made them too numerous for their foes,
25 whose hearts he turned to hate his people,
to conspire against his servants.

*26 He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.*

*27 They performed his signs among them,
his wonders in the land of Ham.*

*28 He sent darkness and made the land dark ❖
for had they not rebelled against his words?*

*29 He turned their waters into blood,
causing their fish to die.*

*30 Their land teemed with frogs,
which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.*

*31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
and gnats throughout their country.*

*32 He turned their rain into hail,
with lightning throughout their land;*

*33 he struck down their vines and fig trees
and shattered the trees of their country.*

*34 He spoke, and the locusts came,
grasshoppers without number;*

*35 they ate up every green thing in their land,
ate up the produce of their soil.*

*36 Then he struck down all the firstborn in their land,
the firstfruits of all their manhood.*

*37 He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,
and from among their tribes no one faltered.*

*38 Egypt was glad when they left,
because dread of Israel had fallen on them.*

*39 He spread out a cloud as a covering,
and a fire to give light at night.*

40 They asked, and he brought them quail;

he fed them well with the bread of heaven.
41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed like a river in the desert.

42 For he remembered his holy promise
given to his servant Abraham.

43 He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
44 he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for ✦

45 that they might keep his precepts
and observe his laws.

Study Notes

The Story Behind the Psalms: 105 & 106

These form a new group of Psalms called the "Hallelujah Psalms." Hallelujah means "Praise ye Jah," or "Praise ye Jehovah." An interesting thing about the word "hallelujah" is that it is the same in every language. It is the one word in all languages that becomes the common denominator. We cannot all speak the same language about most subjects, but when it comes to praising the Lord, we all speak the same language.

These Psalms are divided into three groups ✦ group one ends with hallelujah. In this group are Psalms 104 and 105. Group two begins with hallelujah. This includes Psalms 111 and 112. Group three both begins and ends with hallelujah. Included are Psalms 106, 113, 135, and 146 through 150.

It is interesting that with the passing of the years David's praise becomes greater. The term, "Praise ye the Lord," is included more and more in the Psalms written near the end of David's life. He once said, "I will praise Him more and more," and so he did. As these Psalms are read, the reader should picture an aged David lifting his hands and voice Heavenward thanking God for His grace, for His mercy, for His lovingkindness and for His faithfulness.

The Way They Were Used By God's People:

The Jews would use these as doxology Psalms when they wanted to praise the Lord. They were used at any time. They were much like our songs, "Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus Our Blessed Redeemer," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," etc. In other words, they were general songs of praise used at any occasion the heart leaped with joy.

Theme:

God's mighty deeds in bringing Israel to the Promised Land. Remembering his miracles encourages us to keep living close to him.

Author: David

Psalm 105:1

The first 15 verses of this psalm are also found in 1 Chronicles 16:8-22, where they are sung as part of the celebration of David's bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Three other psalms are also hymns recounting Israel's history: 78, 106, and 136.

Psalm 105:4, 5

If God seems far away, persist in your search for him. God rewards those who sincerely look for him (Hebrews 11:6). Jesus promised, "Everyone who seeks, finds" (Matthew 7:7). The psalmist suggested a valuable way to find God—become familiar with the way he has helped his people in the past. The Bible records the history of God's people. In searching its pages we will discover a loving God who is waiting for us to find him.

Psalm 105:6-11

The nation Israel, the people through whom God revealed his laws to everyone, is descended from Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised that his descendants would live in the land of Canaan

(now called Israel) and that they would be too numerous to count (Genesis 17:6-8). Abraham's son was Isaac; Isaac's son was Jacob. These three men are considered the patriarchs or founders of Israel. God blessed them because of their faith (see Hebrews 11:8-21).

Psalm 105:23-25

Did God cause the Egyptians to hate the Israelites? God is not the author of evil, but the Bible writers don't always distinguish between God's ultimate action and the intermediate steps. Thus, by God blessing the Israelites, the Egyptians came to hate them (Exodus 1:8-22). Because God caused the Israelites' blessing, he is also said to have caused the Egyptians' hatred. God used their animosity as a means to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Psalm 105:45

God's purpose for saving the Israelites was that they would follow his principles and obey his laws. Too often we use our lives and freedom to please ourselves, but we should honor God. That is God's purpose for our lives and why he gave us his Word.

Psalm 106

(New International Version)

¹ Praise the LORD.^[a]

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

2 Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD

or fully declare his praise?

3 Blessed are those who act justly,

who always do what is right.

**4 Remember me, LORD, when you show favor to your people,
come to my aid when you save them,**

**5 that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise.**

**6 We have sinned, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.**

**7 When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. [b]**

**8 Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known.**

**9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.**

**10 He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.**

**11 The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.**

**12 Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.**

**13 But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.**

**14 In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.**

**15 So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.**

**16 In the camp they grew envious of Moses
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.**

**17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it buried the company of Abiram.**

18 Fire blazed among their followers;

a flame consumed the wicked.

*19 At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.*

*20 They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.*

*21 They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,*

*22 miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.*

*23 So he said he would destroy them ♦
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.*

*24 Then they despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.*

*25 They grumbled in their tents
and did not obey the LORD.*

*26 So he swore to them with uplifted hand
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,
27 make their descendants fall among the nations
and scatter them throughout the lands.*

*28 They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;*

*29 they aroused the LORD ♦s anger by their wicked deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.*

*30 But Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was checked.*

*31 This was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.*

*32 By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD,
and trouble came to Moses because of them;*

*33 for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,
and rash words came from Moses' lips.*

*34 They did not destroy the peoples
as the LORD had commanded them,
35 but they mingled with the nations
and adopted their customs.*

*36 They worshiped their idols,
which became a snare to them.*

*37 They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to false gods.*

*38 They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was desecrated by their blood.
39 They defiled themselves by what they did;
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.*

*40 Therefore the LORD was angry with his people
and abhorred his inheritance.*

*41 He gave them into the hands of the nations,
and their foes ruled over them.*

*42 Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.*

*43 Many times he delivered them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.*

*44 Yet he took note of their distress
when he heard their cry;*

*45 for their sake he remembered his covenant
and out of his great love he relented.*

*46 He caused all who held them captive
to show them mercy.*

*47 Save us, LORD our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.*

*48 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.*

Let all the people say, ◆Amen! ◆

Praise the LORD.

Study Notes

Theme: A A song of national repentance as the people return from captivity. God patiently delivers us, in spite of our forgetfulness and self-willed rebellion.

Author: Anonymous

Psalm 106:1

While Psalm 105 is a summary of God's faithfulness, Psalm 106 is a summary of humanity's sinfulness. Psalm 105 covers events up to the exodus from Egypt (Exodus 5 ◆14), and Psalm 106 covers events from the Exodus up to what appears to be the Babylonian captivity (2 Kings 25).

Psalm 106:2

If we ever stopped to list all the mighty acts or miracles in the Bible, we would be astounded. They cover every aspect of life. The more we think about what God has done, the more we can appreciate the miracles he has done for us individually ◆ birth, personal development, salvation, specific guidance, healing, loving friends and family ◆ the list goes on and on. If you think you have never seen a miracle, look closer. You will see God ◆s power and loving intervention on your behalf. God still performs great miracles!

Psalm 106:13-15

In the wilderness, the Israelites were so intent on getting the food and water *they* wanted that they became blind to what God wanted. They were more concerned about immediate physical gratification than lasting spiritual satisfaction. They did not want what was best for them, and they refused to trust in God's care and provision (Numbers 11:18-33). If you complain enough, God may give you what you ask for, even if it is not the best for you. If you **◆**re not getting what you want, perhaps God knows it is not in your best interest. Trust in his care and provision.

Psalm 106:23

Moses served as the people **◆**s intercessor. This refers to the time when the Lord wanted to destroy the people for worshiping the gold calf (Exodus 32:7-14).

Psalm 106:34-39

Israel constantly turned away from God. How could they turn from God and worship the idols of the land after the great miracles they saw? We also have seen God **◆**s great miracles but sometimes find ourselves enticed by the world **◆**s gods: power, money, convenience, fame, sex, and pleasure. As Israel forgot God, so we are susceptible to forgetting him and giving in to the pressures of an evil world. Remember all that God has done for you so that you won't be drawn away from him by the world **◆**s pleasures.

Psalm 106:40-42

God allowed trouble to come to the Israelites in order to help them. Our troubles can be helpful because they (1) humble us, (2) wean us from the allurements of the world and drive us back to God, (3) vitalize our prayers, (4) allow us to experience more of God **◆**s faithfulness, (5) make us more dependent upon God, (6) encourage us to submit to God **◆**s purpose for our lives, and (7) make us more compassionate toward others in trouble.

Psalm 106:44-46

This is a beautiful picture of God's great love for his people who deserved only judgment. Fortunately, God **◆**s compassion and mercy toward us are not limited by our faithfulness to him. God was merciful to

us in sending his Son to die for our sins. If he did this while we were captive to sin, how much more merciful will he be now that we are his children?