

## Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

### Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms

10-19-11

#### Psalm 107

**The Story Behind the Psalms** - Ezra was helping Zerubbabel rebuild the temple. When the foundations were laid, Ezra wrote this Psalm.

**The Way It Was Used by God's People** - When the foundations of any building were laid, this Psalm might be sung. The foundations of a house, the foundations of a synagogue or even a public building often were poured to the singing of Psalm 107.

#### BOOK FIVE (PSALMS 107:1–150:6)

These psalms praise God's works, recount the blessings of righteous living, thank God for deliverance, and praise God for his wonderful word. These psalms remind us that the best sacrifice we can offer to God is a faithful and obedient life.

**Theme:** Thankfulness to God should constantly be on the lips of those whom he has saved. This psalm was written to celebrate the Jews' return from their exile in Babylon.

**Author:** Believed to be Ezra

PSALM 107:1

This psalm speaks of four different types of people in distress and how God rescues them: wanderers (107:4-9), prisoners (107:10-16), the distressed (107:17-20), and the storm-tossed (107:23-30). No matter how extreme our calamity, God is able to help us. He is loving and kind to those who are distressed.

PSALM 107:1, 2

"Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out!" God has done so much for us, and we have so much for which to thank him (see Psalm 103). He wants us to tell everyone all that he has done. These verses are not so much a mandate to witness as a declaration that when we live in God's presence, we will not be able to keep this glorious experience to ourselves (see also Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). What has God done for you? Is there someone you can tell?

PSALM 107:4-9

Lost, hungry, thirsty, and exhausted, these wanderers typify the Israelites in exile. But they also typify anyone who has not found the satisfaction that comes from knowing God. Anyone who recognizes his or her own lostness can receive the offer of Jesus to satisfy these needs. Jesus is the way (John 14:6), the bread from heaven (John 6:33, 35), the living water (John 4:10-14), and the giver of rest (Matthew 11:28-30). Have you received his life-giving offer?

PSALM 107:32

Those who have never truly suffered may not appreciate God as much as those who have matured under hardship. Those who have seen God work in times of distress have a deeper insight into his loving-kindness. If you have experienced great trials, you have the potential for great praise.

## Psalm 108

**The Story Behind the Psalm** - It was no doubt written after a national victory, though we do not know which victory. We cannot help but notice how similar it is to Psalm 57:7-11 and Psalm 60:5-12. This means that the Holy Spirit thought these words important enough to stress them greatly. Because of this they deserve our added attention.

This is also the warrior's morning song, during which he adores God and strengthens himself before entering into the busy day. We have the setting up of the Messiah on the holy hill of Zion, and that Messiah is described as a conqueror when the battle is won.

The Psalm is divided into two parts. The first part is a thanksgiving of faith and a promise to praise the Lord. The second part is a prayer for preservation of God's people.

One of the most beautiful parts of the Psalm is in verse 1. Note the words, "My heart is fixed." In the Hebrew, these words mean, "My heart is ready or prepared," and then, "my heart is fixed." Before a stake is driven into the ground and fixed, it must be prepared and sharpened. David says, "My heart is prepared, and because it is prepared, it is fixed!"

**The Way It Was Used by God's People** - For strength in the morning time, especially when a busy day or a conflict was ahead, this Psalm was used.

**Theme:** Victory in God's strength. With God's help, we can do more than we think.

**Author:** David

PSALM 108:1

The conclusions from two previous psalms have been put together to make this psalm. The first five verses are quoted from Psalm 57:7-11, and the next eight verses (108:6-13) are from Psalm 60:5-12.

PSALM 108:9

Moab, Edom, and Philistia were Israel's enemies to the east, south, and west, respectively. They despised the Israelites and Israel's God.

PSALM 108:13

Do our prayers end with requests for help to make it through stressful situations? David prayed not merely for rescue, but for victory. With God's help we can claim more than mere survival, we can claim victory! Look for ways God can use your distress as an opportunity to show his mighty power.