

“The psalmist holds it to be not enough for men who have received deliverances to thank God in their hearts, or secretly in their chambers. He requires them to make public profession of their thankfulness ‘in the congregation of the people.’” – G. Rawlinson (The Pulpit Commentary, vol. 8 Psalms, [Eerdmans, n.d.], Psalms vol. 3, p. 3)

III. Consider the God We Praise (Psalm 107:33-43)

- A. God is Sovereign over Circumstances (107:33-42)
1. He judges the Land for the evil of its inhabitants
 - a) Rivers and springs turn to desert.
 - b) Fruitful land to salty wasteland
 2. He can restore the Land to a Paradise when He chooses.
 - a) Desert can be turned to pools of water
 - b) Parched land turned to springs of water. [cf. Isa. 35:6-7]
 - c) There the hungry can dwell and find a city to dwell in (think back to Circumstance #1 – verses 4-9)
 - d) They will not only just dwell but they will be fruitful – by God’s blessing (remember the covenant blessings in Deut. 28:1-6)
 3. He can bring people low in judgment
 - a) People are diminished, brought low (with sorrow) due to evil.
 - b) The high and mighty who oppressed others are now treated with contempt and wander in trackless wastes.
 4. He can reverse the fortunes of people when He delivers
 - a) The needy are raised up and their families grow like flocks.
 - b) This makes the upright glad and shuts the mouths of the wicked. [cf. prayers of Hannah 1 Sam. 2:7-8, and Mary Luke 1:51-53.]
- B. The Wise should Contemplate God’s Steadfast Love (107:43)
1. We should attend to these things – studying the Providence and workings of God.
 2. We should consider the steadfast love (covenant / loyal love) of God.
 3. By implication we should be those who speak “say so” of God’s deliverances to us – we should give Thanks!

“Those who notice providences shall never be long without a providence to notice.... The lovingkindness of the Lord is shown in a thousand ways, and if we will but prudently watch, we shall come to a better understanding of it.” – Charles Spurgeon (p. 282)

I. Call for Thanksgiving (Psalm 107:1-3)

- A. Follows Thanksgiving Psalm pattern and begins with a repeated phrase:
1. Give thanks/praise to God...
 - Not an internal thankfulness, but something expressed and declared in front of others.
 2. For He is Good
 - God is good innately – He does not need anything or anyone to be good. If He were to stop being good, He would stop being God. No one can be good without God. Creation is an overflow of His goodness granted to others (everything He made was good.)
 3. For His Steadfast Love endures forever.
 - God’s steadfast love is His covenant love or loyal love (hesed). His faithful keeping of the covenant He made with His people.
 4. This exact call to thanksgiving is repeated several times in Scripture (1 Chron. 16:34; 2 Chron. 5:13; 2 Chron. 7:3; Ezra 3:11; Ps. 106:1; Ps. 118:1, 29; Ps. 136:1).
- B. Four stanzas with a special double chorus
1. People in a Predicament
 - Verses 4-9 – wanderers in the desert
 - Verses 10-16 – prisoners in bondage
 - Verses 17-22 – fools in affliction
 - Verses 23-32 – sailors on a stormy sea
 2. Call out for Deliverance
 - Vs. 6 = 13 = 19 = 28 “Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.”
 3. And are Exhorted to Give Thanks to God for His Wondrous Works
 - Vs. 8 = 15 = 21 = 31 “Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!”

“These favours are bestowed upon our race, upon children of the family to which we belong, and therefore we ought to join in the praise. The children of men are so insignificant, so feeble and so underserving, that it is a great wonder that the Lord should do anything for them; but he is not content with doing little works, he puts forth his wisdom, power and love to perform marvels on the behalf of those who seek him. In the life of each one of the redeemed there is a world of wonders and therefore from each there should resound a world of praises.” ~ Charles Spurgeon, (Daily Treasure: 366 Daily Readings from The Treasury of David, compiled by James M. Renihan [EP Books, 2000], p. 279)

C. Wisdom Psalm pattern

1. The psalm moves out of the pattern of four similar circumstances to general truths about the God we praise.
2. It concludes with a call for the wise to consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

D. Possible direct background

1. The mention of the redeemed being gathered from the lands likely refers to the return from the exile (to Babylon).
2. The trouble mentioned in vs. 2 is the exile.
3. The regathering is an answer to the prayer in Ps. 106:47.
4. The different circumstances in the psalm can be read as different perspectives of the exile, rather than a specific journey back to the land or four distinct places/times.
5. Regardless of whether the different groups are all exiles or not, their experiences would apply to the exiles and also to us in our spiritual circumstances.

II. Circumstances for Thanksgiving (Psalm 107:4-32)

A. Wanderers in the Desert (107:4-9)

1. Their condition
 - a) Without habitation or a city.
 - b) Hungry, thirsty, their soul/life fainting
2. Their deliverance
 - a) They cry to God
 - b) He delivers them:
 - led them by a straight way to a city for them to dwell in.
3. Their praise for God's covenant love and wondrous works to them
 - Especially because God satisfies the longing soul and
 - fills the hungry soul with good things

B. Prisoners in Bondage (107:10-16)

1. Their condition
 - a) In darkness and the shadow of death.
 - b) Prisoners in affliction and irons.
 - c) Weighed down with hard labor, falling down, with none to help
 - d) Cause:
 - they rebelled against the words of God and spurned His counsel.
2. Their deliverance
 - a) They cry to God
 - b) He delivers them:
 - Brought them out of darkness and shadow of death.

- Fulfilling Isa. 42:7 and remembered in Luke 1:70 (4:18).

“Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.”
- Charles Wesley “And Can it Be” (Hymn)

- Burst their bonds apart,
3. Their praise for God's covenant love and wondrous works to them
 - Especially because God shattered the doors of brass, cut in two the bars of iron. [cf. Isa. 45:2]

C. Fools in Affliction (107:17-22)

1. Their condition
 - a) Suffered affliction (evidently illness)
 - b) Loathed any food
 - c) Close to death
 - d) Cause:
 - Their status as “fools” (not a neutral term in the OT), and their sinful ways and iniquities
2. Their deliverance
 - a) They cry to God
 - b) He delivers them:
 - God sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction
3. Their praise for God's covenant love and wondrous works to them
 - They are entreated to both offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell His deeds with songs of joy

D. Sailors on a Stormy Sea (107:23-32)

1. Their condition
 - a) Busy with merchant concerns – but they notice God's greatness
 - b) Threatened with storm and waves, lost their courage. [cf. Isa. 54:11]
 - c) Reeled like drunken men, and at their wit's end.
2. Their deliverance
 - a) They cry to God
 - b) He delivers them:
 - God made the storm cease and the waves hush
 - They are made glad through the peace after the storm
 - They are brought safely to their harbor
3. Their praise for God's covenant love and wondrous works to them
 - They are entreated to extol God in the congregation of people and praise God in the assembly of the elders.