

As we have journeyed through these Psalms, it is clear that God is a God who deserves our praise and worship. He not only deserves it, He demands it of His people. He has been so faithful to His own that it is almost shameful that He would even have to bring this subject up.

We are in what we could call the long Psalms. Some of the Psalms are short, not long; but these are long, not short. The first 15 verses of this Psalm are found in I Chronicles 16:8-22. In that text David is telling Asaph to praise God for the fact that the Ark was in Jerusalem.

As we look down through the first five verses (Psalm 105:1-5), it opens with **10 imperatives or commands**: **1** Give Thanks (**1a**); **2** Call upon (**1b**); **3** Make known (**1c**); **4** Sing (**2a**); **5** Sing praises (**2b**); **6** Speak (**2c**); **7** Glory (**3a**); **8** Seek—sense of direction (**4a**); **9** Seek—sense of petition (**4b**); **10** Remember (**5**).

These are all commands. God's people have been commanded by God to remember all the things He has done and sing about it; speak about it and seek the Lord and pray to the Lord because of it.

Now the bulk of this Psalm has to do with remembering God's faithfulness to Israel in past history. Two key individuals are singled out from Israel's history—Abraham and Moses. By remembering God's faithfulness in regard to these two in the history of Israel, we should seek the Lord.

**REMEMBERING THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IN THE PAST IS CRITICAL TO RIGHT ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS BEFORE GOD IN THE PRESENT.**

Now **verses 1-5** really present to us how memories of God's faithfulness ought to affect us. Remembering how God has fulfilled His Word and promises to His people in the past is great motivation for remaining faithful to God in the present.

There are three main historical memories brought out in this Psalm:

**HISTORICAL MEMORY #1 – Remember God's judgments. 105:5-7**

Remembering God's judgments is a wonderful way to maintain a proper relationship with God. Now the particular judgment that God has in mind was specifically the judgment He made to choose Israel.

God made a decision to choose Israel and in making this decision, He protected Israel, He preserved Israel and He led Israel. He got rid of her enemies no matter how big or strong. As **verse 7** says, "He is the LORD our God."

Now at the end of **verse 7** we learn that this is applicable to "all the earth." God's judgments are in all the earth and not just Israel. Certainly during the Millennium God will control the earth.

One of the greatest things that can cause us to praise God is to remember the judgment He made when He chose us. God chose us. He is the One who made the judgment call concerning our election. Then God started working in our lives and leading us and directing us, and all along the way He protected us and preserved us, and He saw to it that none of our enemies got the best of us.

Spurgeon said, “If God has set His choice on us, let us purpose to be a choice people.” It is a very wise thing for each of us to remember what God has done for us. He judged our sin at Calvary and He has done good things for us ever since.

### **HISTORICAL MEMORY #2 – Remember God’s covenant with Abraham. 105:8-24**

The term “covenant” is used to refer to various legal transactions that occur between man and man or God and man. In the man to man covenant, a legal agreement was made between two parties, which often invoked God as witness. It was a very serious offense to break a covenant. This was something for which God held man highly accountable (i.e. Ezek. 17:12-20).

**Now in verse 8, we learn that God’s covenant is His Word.** God’s Word stands forever even to a thousand generations. What this specifically means, in regard to Israel, is that no matter how many generations come and go God will not ever forget His covenantal promises He made to Israel.

When God entered into a covenant with man, it was pure grace. No man was in any position to enter into a covenant with God because no man could measure up to God’s covenantal standards. Therefore, the fact that God entered into a covenant with Israel, starting with Abraham, is cause for humble thanksgiving and praise. **Israel literally exists today because of the covenant He made with Abraham.** It is certainly not due to Israel’s faithfulness.

Now God entered into a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 and He reiterated this covenant with him in Genesis 15:18-21. Just as **Psalm 105:9** says, God confirmed the same covenant in the presence of Isaac (Gen. 22:15-18) and as **Psalm 105:10** says, He also confirmed it to Jacob (Gen. 28:13-15).

Now in **Psalm 105:10-11**, we learn that the covenantal promise was that Israel was to receive the Promised Land of Canaan. As **verse 12** says, the fulfillment of this and the preservation of this was not based on Israel’s numbers or on the fact that she has been wandering from nation to nation (**verse 13**). **Her very survival and her future land promises are all based on the sovereign promises and protection of God (verses 14-15).**

Charles Spurgeon said, “The smallness of a church, and the poverty of its members, are not barriers to the divine blessing, if it be sought earnestly by pleading the promise. Were not the apostles few, and the disciples feeble when the good work began? Neither because we are strangers and foreigners here below, as our fathers were, are we in any the more danger; we are like sheep in the midst of wolves, but the wolves cannot hurt us, for our Shepherd is near.”

One commentator said of **verse 15**, if you so much as touch one of God's servants, peril will come upon you from Almighty God.

Now in **verses 16-24** we learn how God sovereignly accomplished His plan. He causes a famine to hit the whole world, but He had already sent Joseph as a prisoner to Egypt. God raised up Joseph in Egypt to be ruler over everything Potiphar had and Israel ended up in Egypt and God blessed them there. It is an amazing story.

Now in **verse 19** we learn that God will test us to see if we really believe His Word. God will test us to see if we will stay on course and if we remain faithful, God will launch His people into His blessings.

In the N.T. God has made many wonderful promises to His people who are faithful to Him. Those promises are not based on how many numbers we have or how strong and stable we are. They are simply promises he makes to us and He will never go back on His Word on one of them.

Some of the most negative times of our lives may be all part of God's plan to bring us to His greatest places of blessings. God will test us and that thought should prompt each of us to remain faithful and thankful and call out to Him.

**HISTORICAL MEMORY #3** – Remember God's work with Moses and Aaron. **105:25-41**

**Verse 25 is one verse that clearly teaches the theme of the sovereignty of God.** God was the One who turned the hearts of the Egyptians to hate His people and cheat His people so that He could deliver His people.

It is interesting that God is the One who is in sovereign control over people who hate us and He may be in the process of elevating us and destroying them. That is exactly what God did with the Egyptians.

According to **verse 26**, God raised up Moses and Aaron as His chosen servants through whom He would perform wondrous and miraculous things so that the Egyptians would let His people go (**verses 27-36**).

Not only that, but when they left Egypt, the people gave them all kinds of monetary things (**v. 37**).

God so sovereignly worked that Egypt was glad to see Israel leave. God has caused a great fear to come upon the people (**v. 38**). The same people the Egyptians once mistreated, they ended up fearing because they realized Almighty God was with these people.

God used a cloud and fire to lead and protect the nation (**v. 39**). He provided food and water for the nation (**v. 40-41**). From the moment God brought Israel out of Egypt, He took care of her.

Israel needed to remember that and so do we. God entered into a covenantal relationship with us and He sovereignly chose us. From that moment, He has done good things for us. He has protected us and provided for us.

Now look carefully at **verse 42**. Why did God do all of these things for Israel? Why do we get a historical sketch of what happened with Joseph and Moses and Aaron? Because of the promise of His Word given to Abraham.

As God was bringing Israel out of Egypt, He had great joy (**v. 43**). It made God happy to fulfill His Word to His people.

As **verse 44** says, God gave them the lands of the nations and He let them take possession of the fruit of the people's labor.

Now **verse 45** gives one purpose as to why God did all of this. He did this so that His people would obey Him and His Word and praise Him.

**Remembering all that God has done for us should cause us to do seven things:**

**1) Thank God.**

Dr. McGee said if you cannot look back on your life and find something for which to thank God, there is something wrong with you.

**2) Call upon God in times of trouble.**

**3) Testify and witness for God.**

**4) Sing praises to God.**

**5) Seek direction from God.**

**6) Obey God's Word.**

**7) Trust in God's sovereignty.**