

Psalm 107 begins the fifth and final division of the book of Psalms. Psalm 107 is a great Psalm. It is a Psalm that invokes God's people to thank God and praise God for His merciful deliverance.

Two key thoughts that show up in this Psalm are:

Thought #1 - Give thanks to God (v. 1, 8, 15, 21, 31).

Thought #2 - To give thanks to God, one must cry out to God (v. 6, 13, 19, 28).

Wherever there is trouble, if one will trust God and cry out to God, the end result will be triumph.

This will be a hymn that Jewish people will eventually sing who will be gathered from all parts of the world. This song will be sung at the end of the Tribulation.

The primary point of the Psalm is this:

GOD'S REDEEMED PEOPLE SHOULD THANK GOD AND PRAISE GOD FOR HIS SOVEREIGN AND MERCIFUL DELIVERANCES THAT HE GIVES WHEN PEOPLE CRY OUT TO HIM.

Verses 1-3 give us the main challenge. God has redeemed people from all parts of the world. He has delivered and saved them from various enemies and various situations and these people who have been redeemed by God should thank God and praise God forever.

Now **verse 2** informs us that God has redeemed His people from "the adversary." Now certainly the great adversary is Satan, but the person who will be the embodiment of Satan during the Tribulation will be the antichrist.

In **verses 4-32** there are four descriptions of the kinds of people God redeemed. These descriptions complement Israel's history and they also complement various individual situations. These verses show that there are various physical and spiritual conditions from which one may be saved.

These are all the types of people who should thank God and praise God for His deliverance. There will come a day when all Israel will be saved.

Now there are four descriptions of people whom God delivers:

DESCRIPTION #1 – God delivers the wanderers. 107:4-9

There are some people who wander through life from this to that. They wander from job to job, from relationship to relationship, from location to location, pleasure to pleasure looking for something they are not able to find. They look for satisfaction and they look for stability, but just can't find it. What they need to do is cry out to the Lord. If they do that, they will find what they are looking for because God is in the business of delivering wanderers.

During the Tribulation the Jews will literally need to flee and hide (i.e. Matt. 24:16). They will become wanderers and they will go from place to place looking to just survive. What this ultimately will force them to do is to "cry out to the Lord." This is exactly what will happen to Israel during the Tribulation. Jesus predicted that Israel would not see Him again until she cried out to Him (Matt. 23:38-39). It will take the horrors of the Tribulation to bring her to that point.

As we said, there are many who wander from place to place looking for fulfillment and they never find it. They drift from one wilderness location to another trying to find something to satisfy them. Their souls are hungry and thirsty and finally after spending time in the barren wilderness, they cry to the Lord and what they discover is God will deliver them.

Now in **verse 7** we learn that when Israel cried out to God, God delivered them and led them straight to an "inhabited city." There are many false ways that lead to destruction, but there is only one narrow, straight way that leads one to salvation.

When God finally puts Israel in her land and gives her Jerusalem, **verses 8-9** tell us the results:

Result #1 - God's people will give thanks to God for His mercy. **107:8a**

Result #2 - God's people will give thanks to God for His wonders to the sons of men. **107:8b**

Result #3 - God's people will be satisfied. **107:9a**

Result #4 - God's people will be filled. **107:9b**

DESCRIPTION #2 – God delivers the prisoners. 107:10-16

People get themselves into terrible situations. They end up a prisoner to something. In those situations, if they will cry out to God, God will intervene and will save them and deliver them.

During the Tribulation, many Jews will be locked up in prison waiting to die (Matt. 25:35-36). This will turn out to be another group who will be delivered by God. Now a prisoner is one who is stuck in some dark room. They were typically chained and they literally lived their lives in the shadow of death every day, not knowing whether they would live or die.

The reason why God permitted them to be treated this way is because they rebelled against the Word of God and turned away from God to the point that they mocked His Word and counsel (**verse 11**).

As a result, God humbled them and permitted them to be taken captive. He permitted them to stumble and there was none to help (**verse 12**).

Now the reason why God permitted this was so that they would cry out to Him and when they did cry out to Him He saved them (verse 13).

According to **verse 14**, God brought them out of their dark situation and delivered them from the death sentence and got them out of prison.

God's people should give thanks to the Lord for His mercy and for the wonders He has done among the sons of men. Because God will have shattered bars and set His people free (**verses 15-16**).

There are times when God will permit His people to get into desperate situations and when those times come, God's people need to cry out to God. God does at times cause His people to get into dark, gloomy, life-threatening situations and one thing God is trying to do by these things is get His people to turn to Him for help.

In dark and desperate times, God wants His people turning to Him and crying out to Him. God is the only one who can give real deliverance.

DESCRIPTION #3 – God delivers the fools. **107:17-22**

Fools are people who are afflicted by God because of their evil rebellion against Him and His Word. They are sick in their sin to the point that they are near death. These people lose their appetite and strength and are specifically heading to death because of sin.

There are some people so in love with their sin that they do not even care whether or not it will kill them.

DESCRIPTION #4 – God delivers the storm-tossed. **107:23-32**

Another group who needs to turn to the Lord are the storm-tossed group who find themselves backed into a corner with nowhere else to turn.

Business people who are relatively successful get into ships to travel to do business and they find themselves in the midst of storms and they cry out to God for deliverance and He delivers them. But like **verse 27** says, they find themselves at their wits end and they cry to God and He delivers them. The storms calm down and the prayers are answered.

According to **verse 31**, these people need to thank God and praise God. They need to join in with the rest of the congregation of people before the elders in true and pure worship (**verse 32**). They need to praise God and submit to His authority.

In **verses 33-34**, God describes what He is capable of negatively doing.

- 1) God can change rivers into a wilderness. **107:33a**
- 2) God can change springs of water into a thirst ground. **107:33b**
- 3) God can change fruitful land into a salt waste land. **107:34a**

The reason why God would do this is because of wickedness (**v. 34**). God changes the rivers into a wilderness and springs of water into a thirsty ground.

Now in **verses 35-38**, God informs His people what He is capable of positively doing:

Capability #1 - God is capable of changing dry places into watery places. **107:35**

Capability #2 - God is capable of changing uninhabited places into inhabited places. **107:36**

Capability #3 - God is capable of changing barren places into fruit-producing places. **107:37**

Capability #4 - God is capable of giving great increase and stability. **107:38**

Now in **verse 39-41**, when God's people humble themselves, God is able to completely turn things around. God can reverse roles. He can humble the proud and elevate the humble.

When this happens, the upright people see this and are glad.

Wise people think about this mercy of God. Wise people understand these things about God and they worship Him.

So whether one is a wanderer or a prisoner or a fool or a storm-tossed emotional wreck, the key is to cry out to God for salvation and God will mercifully intervene and one will be able to thank God.