

Thanksgiving: Let The Redeemed Say So

Psalm 107

MPS The Lord redeems His people to call forth their praise and thanksgiving for the glory of His wonder-working power in their lives.

OBJ Four word-pictures of those who have been redeemed and two refrains of praise to remind us of God's great provision in our redemption.

READ Psalm 107:1-3

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **Psa 107:1-3***

Psalm 107 opens with a call to God's people to give thanks for His goodness and steadfast love that endures forever! Those who are redeemed of the Lord are the ones who should say so. The Lord's redemption reaches to every place, no matter how far nor seemingly forgotten. Once conquered and dispersed to the ends of the earth, now remembered and brought back. After decades of exile, how powerful this would've been for God's people to remember! **In remembrance of the Lord's redemption, the Psalmist exhorts God's people to give thanks to the Lord.**

The Lord redeems His people

to call forth their praise and thanksgiving for the glory of His wonder-working power in their lives.

How can one remain quiet when they consider the powerful work of God to save and redeem in this life! Those who have been redeemed are beckoned to "say so"! **Q? WHO has the Lord redeemed to say so?**

OBJ Four word-pictures of those who have been redeemed and two refrains of praise unto God.

These word pictures find illustration in the life of the Israelites, but they transcend any one era of history to apply to all people. Each follows a similar pattern, identifying the state of their life when found by God, how they recognized their state and called out to God, and the Lord's gracious response to them.

#1: The Lord redeemed the homeless.

READ Psalm 107:4-9

*Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ⁹For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. **Psa 107:4-9***

Scattered to the ends of the earth because of their hardened rebellion against God, the children of Israel felt the absence of having a home to call their own. The land that had provided so abundantly for them and reminded them of God's great blessing was no more. From wandering in the desert out of Egyptian captivity to being dispersed from rebellion against God, the wandering created a void of all that a homeland provides. No place to call their own, no place in which to come or be home, and the regular comfort of rest, provision, and protection were all non-existent. They called to the Lord and He answered them with a great blessing to satisfy their souls with good things.

Separated from the Lord produces a spiritual homelessness of unquenchable magnitude. J.I. Packer notes, "Such is the condition of an awakened conscience before it knows the Lord Jesus; it is full of unsatisfied cravings, painful needs, and heavy fears."¹ The soul finds no nourishment or refreshment, no matter how much longing and indulgence it seeks. But

¹ J. I. PACKER, "Introduction," in Psalms, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993), 109.



when the soul cries out in anguish to the Lord, He hears their cries, He leads by His way to His goodness, and redeems to satisfy the longing soul. [The Lord redeems the One whose soul cries out in anguish to Him because there is no rest, no adequate provision, and no sustaining protection that satisfies.](#)

Is your soul wandering in great need, wanting but not finding that which will satisfy? The Lord waits to redeem those who cry out to Him. He leads by His way, if you trust Him, and will satisfy your soul with His goodness.

#2: The Lord redeemed the hamstrung and hindered.

READ Psalm 107:10-16

*Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, ¹¹for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹²So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. ¹³Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. ¹⁵Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ¹⁶For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron. **Psa 107:10-16***

Dark and dank, filled by constant chill and putrid must, the prison cell radiates the soul's stench in rebellion toward God. They were hamstrung by affliction and hindered by a hardened heart because their mind was darkened against the words and counsel of the Most High. The Lord's Word was not absent, but His counsel rejected. He subjected them to hard labor that revealed the hardness of their hearts. "There is no rest for the weary" captures their plight; they have no rest because they toil in vain against God. When they cried to the Lord, He delivered them. One can scarcely imagine how refreshing that first breath of clean air and feel the warm radiance of the sun. [How good the Lord is in His deliverance! He is the one who is worthy of our thanks for His wondrous works. He is One who shatters the walls and bends the bars that incarcerate our soul to give rest.](#)

Q? [How is it that we are hamstrung and hindered?](#) **The mind that is not set on the Lord is set on self.** The mind set on self ensnares the heart by indulgence of any and every vice. With every fleeting pleasure, the heart is buried deeper and the mind further darkened, while the soul is starved and parched. Some people meander in the shadow of death, mastered by their own sinful choices, and shackled by the consequences it produces, even though some remain high functioning to fool all around them. For many, ignorance of God is simply yielding to every opportunity of self-indulgence. For many others, though, ignorance of God and His Word is willful and volitional. They know what He says, but dismiss it, disregard it, or replace it with lesser glory. They choose to live by the wisdom of "crowd sourcing" everything, hungry for the counsel and approval of man. While God's Word is accessible to them, they reject His eternal wisdom and pursue greater ignorance to grow darker and danker as they sink deeper in the dungeon of man's wisdom.

The mind set on self is a destructive path of self-wisdom because it is hostile to God. But all along the path, the One who is light awaits the cry from the dank and putrid cell to release the soul in light and life, and to give rest. [Are you still following the counsel of man, rejecting God's wisdom for the approval of people? Is your soul longing thirsting and hungering today? Are you weary of weariness to cry out to the One who gives rest? The Lord Jesus waits to rescue all by His eternal wisdom who call out to Him and set your mind on His truth.](#)

3: The Lord redeemed the habitual.

READ Psalm 107:17-22

*Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁰He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ²²And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy! **Psalm 107:17-22***



The mind set on self produces a life of affliction suffering from habitual, self-indulgent sin. The one who lives this way the Bible calls “fool”. The fool willfully denies the need of life to pursue the indulgence of their death-ridden ways. Some justify their actions because they have said in their heart, “there is no God.” (Psalm 14:1), while other fools simply tell themselves they are right because it’s what my heart wants. (Proverbs 12:15) Either way, they are fools because they reject and deny God. But God is not far even from the fool; He waits. And when they cry out to Him, He heals and delivers them because of His steadfast love, and fills their lives with thanksgiving because of His wondrous works. [When you grow weary from the affliction of following your heart, friend, cry out to the Lord. He waits to hear from you, to heal your affliction, and deliver you from your suffering.](#)

#4 The Lord redeemed the haughty.

READ Psalm 107:23-32

*Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; ²⁴they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. ²⁵For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; ²⁷they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits’ end. ²⁸Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. ³¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ³²Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. **Psalm 107:23-32***

Here they went about their lives transacting business, surrounded by all the wonderful deeds of the Lord in creation and life. But they did not regard Him. The better business became and the more it grew the less they felt their need for God. The storms (of life) blew and waves rose, as if by happenstance beyond any control, but they held on in their own strength, might, wisdom, and counsel, as if to conquer and subdue creation. But they wearied against the power of nature, their courage melted against the effortless force of creation, until their confidence in struggling was gone and they reached the end of themselves. They cried to the Lord because their trouble surpassed all their life capacity. And He answered them; He silenced the storm and stilled the sea. He not only handled the situation, He delivered them to safety too. And for all He does for the lowly who trust in Him, the Psalmist declares, let them humble themselves and thank Him for His steadfast love and wonderful works. He is worthy of praise from them and their whole congregation. [Let the work of His hands bring low the haughty, whose might and strength fails, to trust in Him whose power and marvelous works never fail to amaze in wonder and praise.](#)

TRANS These are word pictures of the Israelites’ state in their rebellion against God. And of ours too. But even more, of the faithfulness and steadfast love of God toward them. [God turns our hearts to look to Him and redeems us from where He finds us. How does the Almighty do such a work?](#)

Refrain #1: God turns to Redeem 107:33-38

READ Psalm 107:33-38

*He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, ³⁴a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants. ³⁵He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. ³⁶And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; ³⁷they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. ³⁸By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. **Psalm 107:33-38***

God “turns”. This is an eternal declaration of the sovereign and providential hand of God. The earth is His and all creation His handiwork. He controls it and uses it for His purposes both to provide and sustain, and to withhold and deny. God makes a way where there is no way. And where there once was a way that some would use to forsake Him, He takes that way away. For those who trust in Him, He leads to safety and provision, to flourish in their labors and enjoy its blessing. He is a refuge for every generation that trusts in Him. And by His blessing do their labors multiply and do not diminish. God gives, and He takes away. He bestows to bless, and He withholds to curse. [When the praise of](#)



His name is forsaken, the power of His might displays His glory. But when the praise of His Name is resounded, the work of His hand blesses forevermore.

Refrain #2: The Redeemed Say So. 107:39-42

READ Psalm 107:39-43

*When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow, ⁴⁰he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes; ⁴¹but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks. ⁴²The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth. **Psalm 107:39-42***

God not only controls all creation, but He also ordains and controls all creatures. When oppression, evil, and sorrow overwhelm, He hears those who call out to Him and acts. He frustrates the ruler's plan that oppresses the people. When rulers conspire against His righteousness and justice, He laughs at them. (Psalm 2:2-4; Acts 4:26) He holds their heart and turns them where He wants. (Proverbs 21:1) He raises up the afflicted and blesses His people. The upright see His mighty hand and the gladness it brings and praise His Name, to silence the wicked. *Those who are wise give priority in life to His praise; to see His mighty hand that delivers, to receive the abundant goodness that He provides, and to praise His Name without end across the whole earth and give thanks unto Him.*

The Response of the Wise

READ Psalm 107:43

*⁴³Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD. **Psalm 107:43***

Q? What do you see? Will you be wise to attend to these things... to see the mighty hand of God and rejoice, to turn to Him and trust, to take counsel in His eternal wisdom and walk in the light of His truth by faith in obedience?

Consider the steadfast love of the Lord and give thanks and praise to His Name! Those who have been redeemed cannot be silent, we will not remain quiet! We have seen the mighty hand of God, tasted the goodness of His deeds toward us, felt the warmth of His presence and the refreshing of His living water and the satisfaction of His bread of life. We know! We shall say so! *God Almighty is the One who turns things from what they were not to what He ordains them to be so those who see will trust in Him and declare His glorious praise in all the earth and to every generation!*

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