

Psalm 104: The Bless LORD.

This is a glorious Psalm in praise of God's marvelous Creation and of His sustaining of that Creation. The psalmist spoke of God's stretching out the heavens in light, His sovereign control of the deep, His adorning the earth as a dwelling place for man, His arranging night and day for life, and His preparing the sea for its life. He then praised God who gloriously reigns over Creation and renews it by His Spirit. In view of this the psalmist prayed that God would purge sinners, who are out of harmony with Creation.

1-4: He speaks to himself to bless the LORD, His God, the great God, clothed in honor and majesty, covered with light, stretched out the heavens, lives upstairs, rides on the clouds, walks in wind and sends angels to His service.

5-9: The LORD built the earth firmly, water bodies in various places and set boundaries for them.

10-18: God placed springs in the valleys to give water for animals, and He makes things grow that give food for animals and man, wine that excites, oil to smooth man's face and bread for food. The trees have sap and house the birds. There are hills for feeding goats and hyraxes.

19-23: The Lord made the moon and the sun to rule the times when various creatures on earth are active.

24-30: In wisdom God has made everything; the seas and sea creatures and their food chain.

31-32: The Psalmist called for the glory of the LORD to continue since He has such powerful control over Creation.

33-35: The psalmist responded to the greatness of God's Creation by doing two things. First, he vowed to praise God with song and pleasing meditation. This is the proper response of a worshiper who remembers his Creator. Second, he prayed that sinners would vanish from the earth because they are out of harmony with God's Creation.

Psalm 105: God's Faithfulness

1-6: Praise, call upon and declare God's deeds among people; sing to him, rejoice in His name, seek Him and remember His marvelous works.

7-11: The Psalmist turned to offer praise for the LORD because He remembers them and fulfilled His promise of the Canaan.

12-41: First, the writer stated that the Lord protected them while they sojourned in other lands.

Second, the LORD sovereignly led Israelites into Egypt and exalted Joseph.

Third, in Egypt the LORD made His people very fruitful even though they were oppressed.

Fourth, through Moses and Aaron the Lord worked wonders in Egypt. These wonders were the plagues on Egypt that oppressed the Egyptians.

Fifth, the Lord led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided quail, manna (bread of heaven), and water from the rock. So even during Israel's wanderings He was faithful to them.

42-45: The LORD remembered His word and brought His people out of Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. They were redeemed from bondage so that they might obey His word.

By tracing some aspects of the history of Israel (from Abraham to the wilderness wanderings) - as the Lord moved His people miraculously in fulfillment of His covenant promises - the Psalmist praised the greatness of the Lord's love for His own.

This Psalm expresses joy over God's faithfulness to His word in redeeming His Chosen People. So those who receive His benefits should remember His works and respond with obedience.

Psalm 106: Confession.

1-5: Praising God for His incomparable goodness, loyal love, and power. Since all who do what is right are blessed by the Lord, the Psalmist prayed that when God blesses His people He would remember him too. That way he could enjoy prosperity and joy and give God praise.

6-12: They had sinned as their fathers had done. First, he wrote of their sin at the crossing of the Red Sea. Yet the Lord saved them to show His mighty power, and they believed and sang praises to Him.

13-33: The people's sins as they traveled to the Promised Land. They soon forgot God's miracles and began to lust. God sent a plague (a wasting disease) on them. They also murmured out of envy over Moses and Aaron, so God destroyed Dathan and his company. At Horeb, the ancient name for Mount Sinai, they made a golden calf in violation of the Law. God would have destroyed them if Moses had not interceded.

They murmured again (grumbled) so God swore with uplifted hand that they would die in the wilderness. They despised the pleasant land by disbelieving the LORD.

At Peor they sinned again (this time in idolatry with the Moabites), and Phinehas intervened to stop the plague.

At Meribah Moses lost patience with them when they rebelled against God. As a result of his impatience Moses also lost the privilege of entering the land of promise.

34-46: The Psalmist then reminded the people of their failure to destroy the inhabitants of the land, as the LORD had commanded them to do. Instead of

obeying the Lord's command to demolish the Canaanites' idols Israel worshiped them and even sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons associated with the idols.

Because Israel sinned so grievously, the LORD was angry with His people and gave them over to the oppression of enemies.

Many times, however, God delivered them. This refers to His raising up judges to deliver Israel from her oppressors because of His covenant and His faithful love. Thus the Lord constantly brought judgment on His disobedient people, but He also constantly responded to their cries.

47-48: After retracing the nation's sin and God's punishment, the psalmist prayed that they would be again delivered (gather us from the nations apparently suggests the nation was dispersed) so that they might praise Him.

In spite of God's faithfulness to Israel her history was filled with faithlessness and ingratitude. This is a confessional psalm, traces some of the Israelite's rebellious activities and God's judgments on them. The Psalmist then prayed that the Lord would deliver His people from their captivity.

Daniel 9:16 - "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.

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Psalm 89:8 - O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

***Psalm 119:90** - Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.*