

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 • Read Psalm 107:1–22**

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the theme of this Psalm (v1a; cf. v8, v15, 21, 31)? How, especially, does He show this goodness (v1b)? What happens to the objects of this steadfast love, and how should they respond (v2a)? From what has He redeemed them (v2b)? What has He done with them (v3)? What sort of things did He bring them through (v4–5)? What did they do (v6a)? And how did He respond (v6b–7)? What does He do for whom (v9)? Then what was their condition (v10)? Why (v11)? What did the Lord do in response (v12)? Then what did they do (v13a)? And how did the Lord respond (v13b–14)? How does v16 describe the Lord's delivering them? What does v17 say was the cause of all their trouble? How bad did it get (v18)? Then what did they do (v19a)? And how did the Lord respond (v19b)? What did He especially use to deliver (v20)? What does v22 add this time?

**How does the Lord prepare us to look to Him in distress?** Psalm 107:1–22 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these twenty-two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **praising God for His mercy to sinners prepares them to look to Him when they most feel their need of that mercy.**

v1 and v43 give the Psalm its great theme: thanking YHWH for His covenant love ("mercy" in v1 and "lovingkindness" in 43 translate the Hebrew word for covenant/steadfast love).

In this first half of the Psalm, we have three of the four occurrences of urging men to "give thanks to YHWH for His goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men" (v8, 15, 21; cf. v31). The fourth will deal with men in general. But in these three, that deal specifically with the Lord's covenant people, there are several repeated components to these wonderful works.

**The Lord's saving His people.** The very first thing for which the redeemed praise YHWH (v2a) is His redemption (v2b)—whether it's gathering them out of the lands (v3), leading them by the right way (v7), bringing them out of bondage (v14), or healing them by His Word (v20).

**His people's repeated distresses.** In vv4–5, they are forlorn, hungry, thirsty, and desperate. In v10, they are in bondage on the verge of death. In v18 they despair of life to the point of losing interest in food. The Lord's people in this world go through all manner of trouble.

**His people's crying out to Him.** In v6a they cry out to YHWH. And again in v13. And again in v19.

**His answering them.** Each of these cries is attached to his answering (v6b, 13b, 19b).

**Their sin against Him.** v11 introduces the theme of their sinning against the Lord: "they rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High." v17 repeats it: "Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted."

It is marvelous enough that the Lord pities His people in their creaturely weakness. But it is a marvel of forgiving grace that He hears us when we cry out from trouble that we have brought upon ourselves by folly and sin. Praise the Lord! We need to hear this, don't we, gentle reader? For, we have often brought upon ourselves our distress. In such times, it is good for us to have had Scripture drive into our hearts that the Lord has mercy upon sinners like we are.

Let us sing sacrifices of thanksgiving and rejoicing (v22), giving thanks to YHWH for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And, with the Spirit driving this home to our hearts by the prayers He has given us to sing, we will come to Him in repentance when His chastenings bring us to an end of ourselves.

What are the worst distresses you have been in? How will you respond in your next one? How does praising the Lord with this Psalm prepare you to do so? What if the distress is your own fault, or has come upon you as a chastening for sin?

*Sample prayer: We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You are good. Your covenant love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble—even and especially the consequences of our sin. We cry out to You for help, even help just that we might worship You. Grant unto us to give thanks to You for Your goodness and for Your wonderful works to the children of men! Satisfy our longing souls, and fill our hungry souls with goodness. Send Your word and help us. Grant unto us to sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare Your works with rejoicing, we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP107A "O Thank the Lord for He Is Good" or TPH107A "O Thank the Lord for He Is Good"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Psalm 107. These are God's words. Okay. Thanks to y'all. Hey for he is good. For his mercy indoors forever. Let the redeemed of yahweh say so, Whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. And gathered out of the lands. From the east, and from the west. From the north, and from the south.

They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way. They found their city to dwell in Hungry and thirsty, they're so fainted in them. They cried out to Yahweh in their trouble and he delivered them. Out of their distresses. He led them forth by the right way that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

Oh, that men would give thanks to your way for his goodness. Then first wonderful works to the children of men. For his satisfies, the longing soul and fails. The fills, the hungry, soul with goodness. Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death found in affliction and irons Because they rebelled against the words of god and despised the council of the most high.

Therefore, he brought down their heart with labor. They fell down. And there was none to help. Then they cried out to you all way in their trouble. And he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness. And the shadow of death. Then broke their chains and pieces.

Oh, that men would give thanks to your way for his goodness. And for his wonderful works to the children of men. For his broken, the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron and two. Fools. Because of their transgression. And because of their iniquities. Were afflicted. Their sole abort, all matter of food, they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried out to Yahweh in their trouble. And he saved them out of their distresses. He sent his word and healed them. And delivered them from their destructions. Oh, that men. Would give thanks to your way for his goodness. And for his wonderful work to the children of men.

Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving. And declare his works with rejoicing. Men, that sends this reading of gods. Inspired and inherent word. We're going to be taking two weeks to cover this psalm Uh, the psalm gives its theme and the first verse, They'll give thanks to your way for he is good.

For his mercy and the word mercy there. Discuss it or steadfast love. Indoors forever. And then, in verse 33. Whoever is wise will observe these things. They will understand the hussent, although here it's translated, loving kindness, but both places. It's covenant. Love the steadfast love. They will understand the hazard of yahweh.

And so, the lord Presents his covenant. Love his steadfast love. In history, especially In the history of his dealings, with his people. But also Uh, inhale he Brings even men, who Are not from among his people. To an end of themselves and gathers them. Uh, to himself. And so, We have the first three.

Uh, instances of this refrain that you heard. In verse 8, and in verse, 15. And In verse 21. Oh, that men would give thanks to yahweh. For his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. And there'll be Uh, one more of those next week. Inverse 31.

But the first three focus especially on his dealings with Israel. And the last one comes in the context of his dealings. With men more generally. Or from the nations. Uh, whom he will. Uh, gather in among his people. So we're especially thinking this week about how God's steadfast love.

As demonstrated in his dealings with Israel. And we see in the, several refrains here. Uh, several common features. One is that the Lord? Uh, saves his people. This is the focus. Verse two tells us let the redeemed of Yahweh say, so Whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

And then there are multiple deliverances described. As as it goes along. Uh, so the focus especially is on the Lord's saving Uh, but what does he saving us from? And, How does this? Uh, saving become. Uh, how is this saving initiated? And, How did we end up in the situation?

In which we needed the saving all of these. A questions. All of these factors in the Lord's, saving his people. Uh, end up exalting or praising. His mercy has love his faithfulness. In. His saving us. Uh, what he saves us from are Uh, repeated. Distresses. We see one distress and versus four and five.

Wandering in the wilderness hungry thirsty. Etc. We see another distress and Um, Verse 10. They're sitting in darkness and the shadow of death in affliction and iron. And then, He saves them out of that, darkness and death and trains in verse 14. And then the last instance of what he saves them from.

We see in verse Uh, 18. The rock solo that they're on the doorstep of death and they don't even really care. To eat food. They Um, You know, they're so near death that they've dispensed of everything else. And so the Lord saves his people and he saves them. Out of repeated, distress and great distress.

This helps us understand one of the purposes of application for which the psalm has been given us. Not just that we would praise and thank him because his steadfast love indoors forever indeed. We ought to and we will and that is the ultimate end. But especially when we are in times of trouble.

Uh, we need to remember. That the Lord only brings his people into trouble. Uh, brings his elect into trouble when he is going to bring them out of trouble. And when he is going to bring them through trouble, that the end is praising him for how he has saved them.

So that when we are discouraged and cast down, we do with ourselves like, Psalm, 42 and 43 train us to do we apply this reality that we will, yet praise him. And so we say why are you cast down on my soul? Why are you so discouraged? Hope in God.

For I will yet, praise him. I know how this ends and because I know how it ends. I know what the main point is. It's not even my being sanctified and holy. Which is necessary for me at last to have God as my treasure and God as my reward without holding us, we won't see the Lord.

But the great reason is that God will be praised. For what he has done. Praised for making me, holy praised for saving me out of the trouble. So why are you cast down on my soul? Why are you so discouraged? Hope, no one God for, I will praise him.

He is my help. He is my God. And you have that refrain. And Psalm 42. And Psalm 43. And so, We have this refrain. Oh, that men would give thanks to Yahweh for his goodness. First wonderful works to the children of men. And so, whatever trouble we are in We remember.

God has done wonderful works. Like saving men out of bigger troubles than the one I'm in. God has done this before. Then he has done it unto the end of his being thanked and his being praised. So he saves his people. He saves the matter of repeated and great distresses.

And the deliverance is occasioned by their crying out to him. The Lord is a Lord who uses means. And in this particular case the means of crying out and praises him. Exalts him as Psalm 65 teaches as the God who hears and answers prayer. And so we have multiple instances here.

Verse 6, verse 13, verse 19, verse 6. They cried out till you all the way in their trouble. He delivered them out of there, just trust us. Verse 13, they cried out to you all day in their trouble. He's saved them. Out of their distresses. Verse 19. They cried out to Yahweh in their trouble.

He saved them. Out of their distresses. And so in here in trouble, one of the things, the Lord wants you to do is to cry out to him. And all of those wicked reasons in your heart for not crying out to him, you are to answer. Uh, with the with Bible truth.

I don't feel like it while you ought to feel like it. He he doesn't listen to me anyway. He absolutely listens to you. There's no hope he is your hope. So, whatever it is that That hinders our crying out to him. Uh, let us learn to reject those wrong, thoughts, those wrong feelings and take our troubles and okay as occasions of crying to him of praying to him.

Uh, he gives us. Distresses, so that we will cry out to him. And art distresses or he gives us trouble. To use the the Uh word that is in the first line of verse 6, 13 and 19. He gives us troubles, so that we'll cry out to him in the trouble.

Um, Because that is the instrument by which he saves us out of our distress. One of the reasons many people are. Prolonged in their trouble or they're distresses. They don't see. That. The Lord. Has ordained to do things in response to prayer. He's inviting us to participate in his wonderful works.

Now, we don't have wonderfulness to contribute. So what do we contribute? Neediness distress? We say, I am distressed. I am helpless. And God answers to show that he is not distressed and he is almighty. And he is compassionate. He listens, he hears, he is much glorified. By responding to our prayers.

And how amazing is it that the God of heaven hears? The cries of his people on earth. So that none of us are big. We are all small None of us are great. The God, he hears daddy when he cries, here's Sophia when she cries. Because he is glorified as our help and our God and both cases.

And so, His glorified by the greatness of the distress from out of which he saves us. He's glorified by the mechanism or the occasion, the the trigger. Of his people crying out and of his Of his answering. He's even glorified by. Uh, the cause Of many of our distresses being our own sin.

This, we see, especially in the In the latter two. Uh, instances or cycles of this refrain. In verse 11, and in verse 17, The darkness and death that verse 10 and 14 describe. Uh, are things that he had given them to humble them verse 12. Because why verse 11, They had rebelled against the words of God and despise The council of the most high.

And then this despairing even to the point of being on the doorstep of death in verse 18. Why and how did that come from? Or why and how did that come? Uh, verse 17 fools because of their transgression. Because of their iniquities were afflicted. Were brought down. We're humbled.

And so, Sometimes we're We don't feel like we can pray to God for help when we're In trouble, that is actually the consequence of our own sin. And we know that we're being chasing, we know that we're being punished. And yet the Lord presents to him himself to us as the one who forgives sinners.

Who delivers us out of things that we have brought upon ourselves. He's not like a hard-hearted man who might have helped someone who was in trouble. But happened to know that they got themselves into that trouble and he says, well good. Uh, they deserve it. We do deserve it, but he has compassion upon us.

Even to the point. That ultimately he takes upon himself at the cross what we deserved. In order to satisfy. The greatness of his mercy. Towards those for the objects of his redeeming love. He takes upon himself what we deserve, and he saves us out of it. And then he gives us examples like this.

Multiple times in the history of his dealing with his people in the bible. Where they brought the trouble on their own heads and they cried out to him. And he pitied them even for the trouble that they had brought upon themselves so that we may be encouraged if we find ourselves in a similar place.

That this is the character of our covenant. God of our redeemer. That even and things that we deserve that we have brought upon ourselves. He hears us when we cry out to him. So that his nearness and his forgiving, and his power, and his wisdom, all of these things, all of these aspects.

Attributes of our god. Our glorified. And his wonderful works. To the children of men. And so he teaches us to give, thanks and to praise him even when we're not in the trouble. So that when we do come into it, we have been trained by praising him. To remember his character to Uh, give proper due.

To those attributes of his character that will encourage us. To cry out to him. And be delivered. So, the lord give us to be. Those who praise him for his great works. He praise him. For his wisdom and his power. His nearness is listening to his people. As mercy to forgive.

And having. Uh, help been helped by the spirit to know him. And these things about him. As we praise him, we will be helped by the spirit to lay hold of him as he has presented himself to us. And cry out to him and be delivered. Let's pray. Our gracious.

God and our heavenly father, we thank you for Declaring yourself to us and your word. Especially declaring yourself to us in your son. Our lord jesus and his saving work. And we pray lord for the help of your spirit. That he would apply to us. This portion of your word in the knowledge of your son.

That we might. Uh, grow accustomed and heart and mind to giving you thanks and praising you For your goodness for your wonderful works. And to tell out of your redeeming us, So that we may be strengthened in the knowledge of you and your attributes. In order property properly to lay hold of you.

And our times of distress, So help us by your spirit. We ask in jesus name Amen.