

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So

Thanksgiving 2017

Psalm 107

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Introduction

As the people of God we should be known as people of gratitude. As those who have been redeemed and adopted into the family of God we should never be shy to proclaim our thanks to God, whether in prayer or in daily conversation.

In Psalm 107 the primary theme is that the redeemed of God should proclaim what they have received. As those who have been delivered we should be people of thanksgiving and praise to God.

Context

While the Psalm is written of the people of Israel, the application is for all of us. In the same way that God redeemed and delivered the people of Israel, He is still offering deliverance and redemption, and as those who have experienced it we should be people of thanksgiving.

A Call to Gratitude for our Deliverance (vs. 1-3)

In the original context this Psalm is written to the nation of Israel who had been in exile and then, by God's deliverance, had been brought back to their land. God brought back His people from every direction (vs. 3).

In the introduction the Psalmist calls on those who been redeemed to proclaim their story in thanks and praise. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

Our Need for Deliverance - What We Have Been Delivered From

In verses 4-32 the Psalmist provides four examples of people who were in need of deliverance. Ultimately they are delivered, but first we will consider what they needed to be delivered from.

- **The Wanderers (107:4-5)** – This group of people were traveling aimlessly through the desert looking for a home (a place of safety and rest) that they could never find. As they wandered they grew hungry, thirsty and discouraged. Without a deliverer they would perish.
- **The Prisoners (107:10-12)** – This group of people are described as being in the deepest darkness and bound by chains as a consequence of their rebellion against God. This likely pictures the rebellion of Israel and God's discipline.
- **The Sick (The Foolish) (Psalm 107:17-18)** – Like the imprisoned, the sick were experiencing the consequences of their sin. Their sin led to sickness which led to the refusal of food. Without deliverance they will soon perish.

- **The Storm Threatened (107:23-27)** – This group of people find themselves in a storm that is more fierce than anything they and experienced before. While these are trained seamen, they knew that on their own they would certainly perish from the storm.

Application: In each of these stories we have a picture of where we were before Christ as well as how we may feel when we are caught in sin or troubles of the world. Without Christ we are the wanderers, the prisoners, the sick, and the sailors in the storm. On our own we will perish, we need a deliverer.

The Source of Our Deliverance - Who We Have Been Delivered By

As the Psalmist tells these four stories they all follow a same outline and we see that in each of these situations the response of those in need was the same: They cried out to the Lord. And in each situation God graciously brought deliverance (107:6, 13, 19, 28)

- The wanderers are given a straight path to a city (107:7)
- The prisoners chains are broken and they are brought out of darkness (107:14, 16)
- The sick are healed and spared from certain death (107:20)
- The storm threatened are spared and given safe passage (107:29)

These stories of redemption are not only great examples of the power of God, but they provide important reminders:

- When we find ourselves in desperate places we must cry out to God; He will hear us and He is able to save us.
- On our own we can never deliver ourselves – only God can offer the deliverance we need.

Our Response to our Deliverance - What We Have Been Delivered To

In each of the four accounts, after God has delivered His people the Psalmist gives this admonition: That those who have been delivered should thank the Lord for His deliverance.

The proper response to being delivered is to express your gratitude and praise. As Christians we should be in constant praise because:

- We were wandering in the desert and God gave us a straight path
- We were in prison and God broke our chains and brought us into the light
- We were sick to point of death and He healed us
- We were in a storm and He stopped it and gave us safe passage

Conclusion: The God who is Able to Deliver (107:33-43)

The Psalm concludes with a description of the power of God and His desire to do what is good for His people. The final admonition is that those who are wise will consider (remember) the steadfast love of God.