

PSALM 106

Following Psalm 105, wherein Yahweh is magnified for his divine goodness in keeping the covenant he made with Abraham, we find this psalm exhibiting all the baseness of human wickedness. It begins and ends with "Praise Yahweh," but the space between is filled with the mournful details of Israel's sin and God's extraordinary patience. It covers the period from the bondage in Egypt to the Israelites' settlement in Canaan. It is one of the many psalms occupied with the historical part of the Old Testament, and surely this should be a sufficient rebuke to those who think lightly of that which the Holy Spirit uses so frequently for our instruction. What other scriptures had David beside these very histories that are so depreciated? Yet he made them his songs during his earthly pilgrimage.

- 1 Praise YAHWEH! Oh give thanks to YAHWEH, for He is good;
for His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 2 Who can speak of the mighty deeds of YAHWEH, or can show forth all His praise?
- 3 How blessed are those who keep justice, who practice righteousness at all times!

- 4 Remember me, O YAHWEH, in *Your* favor toward Your people;
visit me with Your salvation,
- 5 that I may see the prosperity of Your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, that I may glory with Your inheritance.

- 6 We have sinned like our fathers,
we have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly.
- 7 Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders;
they did not remember Your abundant kindnesses,
but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.
- 8 Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name,
that He might make His power known.
- 9 Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up,
and He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness.
- 10 So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated *them*,
and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
- 11 The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left.
- 12 Then they believed His words; they sang His praise.

- 13 They quickly forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel,
14 but craved intensely in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.
- 15 So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them.

- 16 When they became envious of Moses in the camp, and of Aaron, the holy one of YAHWEH,
17 the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and engulfed the company of Abiram.

18 And a fire blazed up in their company; the flame consumed the wicked.

19 They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a molten image.

20 Thus they exchanged their glory for the image of an ox that eats grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

22 wonders in the land of Ham *and* awesome things by the Red Sea.

23 Therefore He said that He would destroy them,

had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him,

to turn away His wrath from destroying *them*.

24 Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe in His word,

25 but grumbled in their tents; they did not listen to the voice of YAHWEH.

26 Therefore He swore to them that He would cast them down in the wilderness,

27 and that He would cast their seed among the nations and scatter them in the lands.

28 They joined themselves also to Baal-peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.

29 Thus they provoked *Him* to anger with their deeds,

and the plague broke out among them.

30 Then Phinehas stood up and interposed, and so the plague was stayed.

31 And it was reckoned to him for righteousness, to all generations forever.

32 They also provoked *Him* to wrath at the waters of Meribah,

so that it went hard with Moses on their account;

33 because they were rebellious against His Spirit, he spoke rashly with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the peoples, as YAHWEH commanded them,

35 but they mingled with the nations and learned their practices,

36 and served their idols, which became a snare to them.

37 They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons,

38 and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and their daughters,

whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with the blood.

39 Thus they became unclean in their practices, and played the harlot in their deeds.

40 Therefore the anger of YAHWEH was kindled against His people

and He abhorred His inheritance.

41 Then He gave them into the hand of the nations,

and those who hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were subdued under their power.

43 Many times He would deliver them;

they, however, were rebellious in their counsel, and so sank down in their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless He looked upon their distress when He heard their cry;

45 And He remembered His covenant for their sake,

and relented according to the greatness of His lovingkindness.

46 He also made them *objects* of compassion in the presence of all their captors.

47 Save us, O YAHWEH our God, and gather us from among the nations,
to give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise.

48 Blessed be YAHWEH, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting.
And let all the people say, “Amen. Praise YAHWEH !

PRAYER

Almighty Yahweh, your mercy is everlasting. You have shown great favor to Israel, in whom you have delighted. Let that day come soon when they will welcome their Messiah with open arms. Keep and protect the nation as the apple of your eye. And keep us, your disciples, zealously working for their salvation, for the fields are ripe for harvest among them as well as the Gentiles. Your mighty arm is not shortened that it cannot save. All are invited, none are excluded. Draw sinners now, grant them convicting grace, and then shall they turn to you in saving faith. We ask in our Messiah's name, the Lord Jesus. Amen.