

When You Need Rescue From An Absolutely Hopeless Situation

Psalm 107

BACKGROUND

THOUGH THIS PSALM marks the beginning of the fifth book of the Psalter it is, nevertheless, closely related to the two psalms that precede it. Let just a few indications of this be given. Ps. 105, of a character all its own, leads the reader through Israel's history to the time of the Exodus. Ps. 106 carries him along to the time of the going into the Babylonian Captivity. Ps. 107 takes up the sequence referring to the Restoration from this exile. Thus it might also be noted that Ps. 106:47 prays for the Restoration; Ps. 107 thanks for the Restoration.¹

...[T]he word *gathered* (v 3) answers the very prayer of 106 :47. This matching of petition and answer has persuaded some expositors that Psalms 105—107 are a trilogy, despite the traditional boundary between Books LV and V, telling the story of God's grace in His choice and nurture of Israel (105), His forbearance and chastisement (106) and finally His reclamation of her (107). Kirkpatrick points out the link between the three in the expression *the lands*, crystallizing the promise (105:44), the punishment (106:27) and the rescue (107:3).²

You need to recall the _____ of God in redemption/restoration, 1-3.

V 1 recalls Jeremiah 33:10, 11.

V 2 The word _____ brings echoes of the custom which obliged a kinsman to step in to rescue his close relative from debt or slavery (see the references at 69:18).³

There are four sections in vv 4-32

These four "life or death" situations represent four pictures of Israel's desperate plight in captivity.

Hopelessly _____ and hungry, 4-9

Hopelessly _____ behind bars, 10-16

Hopelessly _____, 17-22

Hopelessly lost in a _____ sea, 23-32

Each section has a pattern

Hopeless situation _____

¹ Leupold, *Psalms*, p. 761.

² Kidner, *Psalms*, pp. 383, 384

³ Kidner, *Psalms*, pp. 383, 384

4-5, 10-12, 17-18, 23-27

Hopeless one _____ for help

6, 13, 19, 28

God delivers because of his _____

7, 14, 20, 29-30

People encouraged to _____ because of his *hesed* and wonders.

8-9, 15-16, 21-22, 31-32.

God is the “ _____ ⁴” of life’s events, 33-41.

There follows a section that turns from specific instances to a general truth: the up’s and down’s, the success and the failure, the prosperity and calamity in the lives of individuals and nations are entirely in the control of and brought about by the will of the Almighty. None are brought low or raised on high unless He wills it... Things like this do not just happen of themselves; they are proofs of the sovereign and wise providence of God. The righteous observe that such is the case and are glad over it and rejoice. In the face of this well-established truth wickedness must lapse into silence, for God governs this world effectively and well.⁵

In the final analysis, the wicked are _____ v 42.

What should you do?

V 43 “heed and consider these things”

You were lost and hopeless in your sin.

...And often in life circumstances.

Because of no merit on your own, when you cried, God in his mercy redeemed you.

You ought OFTEN to reflect upon v 1, 8.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever, v 1

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men... 8, 15, 21, and 31.

God sovereignly controls the “ebb and flow” of life, to humble the proud and exalt the humbled.

You ought to seek _____ before this great God.

You ought to _____ to obey this great God, 105:45.

⁴ Derek Kidner’s term, p. 386.

⁵ Leupold, *Psalms*, p. 760, 761.