

July 20,2025 God's Faithfulness

Session 8 Psalm 105:1-11, 42-45

Intro: Psalms 105-106 recount all the different events that made Israel a nation. Psalm 105 begins and ends with Abraham, recording how God began with His promise to Abraham, and carrying out the fulfillment of that promise by giving Israel their own land. God made seven promises to Abraham. **Genesis 12:1-3** (1) A great nation would come from him, (2) blessing, (3) a great name, (4) Abraham would be blessed, (5) those who blessed Abraham would be blessed, (6) God's curse on those who mistreated Abraham, and (7) God would use Abraham and his descendants to be a blessing to the nations. 1 Chronicles chapter sixteen is so worshipful. It associates the psalm with David and his chief musician, Asaph (vs.16:7). Praising God, I would like to read vs. 8-19. The people of God need to recognize the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises, and recognize He deserves our worship because of who He is.

Psalm 105

The first six verses of psalm 105 encourage God's people to remember all the wondrous works that God did on behalf of Israel. The psalmist praised the Lord for how faithfully He kept His promises to Abraham and his descendants. I thought of the wondrous things God did for me.

Verses 7-22 is a historical recital recounting how Yahweh made a promise to the ancestors of Israel.

Verses 23-25 describe how Israel grew as a nation.

Verses 26-38 records how God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery out of Egypt.

Verses 39-41 documents how God cared for Israel in the wilderness.

Verses 42-44 reveals how God gave His people possession of the land of Canaan.

It would be interesting to make a chronological map of your life noting special events, times of accomplishments and failures, times of plenty and times of living paycheck to paycheck or no paycheck at all. I had to do that once to help me through a terrible time of clinical depression. It was very interesting to notice patterns and intervals of change. It would be a display of how God blessed and delivered us.

Call To Worship (Psalm 105:1-6) p. 71

We, and Jacob's descendants, are God's chosen ones. God wants us to remember as well as verbally express all the things that God did for us,

and for Israel. God is Lord of all the earth. God's miraculous deeds have been performed in the presence of the entire world. Remembrance is not just a mental exercise but verbalizes God's work in the lives of His people. The psalm opens with commands: *"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name, proclaim His deeds."* Giving thanks to God is central to worship, and calling God's name is a way to magnify His name in praise. Names are how we recognize and acknowledge others. Naming the creatures God had created was among the very first tasks that God gave Adam. The New Testament emphasizes the importance of the name of the Lord.

Philippians 2:10-11 *"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* In the name of Jesus prayers are answered, the gospel is preached, and even demons are removed. There is power in God's name! The Lord's holy name represents all that He is in His character and attributes, all He alone has done, and all He will do.

Vs. 2 I love singing praises to the Lord, and He likes to receive them. This psalm is a hymn, and hymns typically include a call to sing and to praise God. Then they usually describe the reasons for praising God, which are connected to His deeds, greatness, and majesty. The psalmist emphatically told believers to sing to God. True worship needs to be directed toward God. We are to speak (tell) about God's wondrous works! The Hebrew word for tell is also translated as meditate or think. It is both a mental and verbal act. In this case, the verbal act is proclamation and mission. Corporately, the people of God are to sing praises to God, and give witness to His wondrous works that He has done for them/us.

Vs. 3 We should boast in God's holy name! Hallelujah or "praise Yahweh." The Lord is holy in His character, so He should be praised for who He is, not just for what He does. To seek the Lord and His strength is to focus on and orient one's life toward God. **Deuteronomy 4:29,31** *"But from there [scattered] you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. (...for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them."* We need to trust His undergirding might so we will be able to endure difficulty and go forward in faithful obedience to Him. When we seek His face always, we look continually to God's lovingkindness and direction rather than allowing their attentions to be diverted to lesser things. Jesus taught in **Matthew 5:8** *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."* So what does seeking God look like, and how do we do it?

Vs. 5 We are to actively remember God's wondrous works, not just as historical events but as a means to obedient response to God's covenant. We remember the acts of God in Scripture, worship, and in our daily lives. The acts/works of God direct our attention to Him. Praising God involves acknowledging who God is and what He has done, and remembering the past is essential both to seeking the Lord and also to praising Him. Seeking the Lord involves time spent in God's Word, learning what it says, meditating on its meaning, applying it in one's life, and trusting God to continue to be faithful.

Vs. 6 God promised Abraham that He would be the father of many nations. The offspring of Abraham, his descendants (seed), are God's chosen ones. As part of the New Covenant, through Christ we also are descendants of Abraham. According to Paul, a true Jew was not someone who was a biological descendant to Abraham, but a believer in Christ. **Galatians 3:29** *"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* Fulfillment of this promise is a matter of the heart, not bloodline.

Covenant Made (Psalm 105:7-11) p. 73

The people were called to praise God for his longstanding covenantal relationship with them. As the sovereign Ruler of the whole earth, God promised Abraham that his descendants would one day inherit the land of Canaan. He affirmed this covenant with both Isaac and Jacob. The phrase *"the LORD our God"* appears in the Shema, one of the most important texts in Judaism. The Shema is the Hebrew verb meaning "to listen", and is a confession that there is only one God to whom the individual professes wholehearted love and devotion. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength"* The psalmist recognized that the Lord is not just a localized, national deity who has authority only within the confines of its borders. Pagan gods were limited to their geographical locations, and stuck in some statue made of wood, metal, or stone. The Lord God of Israel has all authority, and His judgments govern the whole earth. The whole earth is under God's administration. Wherever the people of God are, He is always near them, they are under God's rule, and in His domain.

Vs. 8 In the Old Testament, a covenant was the establishment of a bond between two parties both legally and relationally. God remembers His covenant and His promise to Abraham. He remembers His covenant forever. It is continual, perpetual, and without end.

A covenant is an agreement between two persons or parties. It could be an alliance of friendship like the one between David and Jonathan, a covenant of marriage, or a treaty between two equal or unequal parties. God made a covenant with the Israelites that He would be their God and they would be His chosen people. **Deuteronomy 7:9** *“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”*

Vs. 11 God gave Canaan to Israel as an inherited portion. As Christians, we have also received an inheritance. The down payment for our inheritance is the possession of the Holy Spirit. **1 Peter 1:3-4** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you [us].”* We are God’s children, heirs of God, and coheirs with Christ.

In between: Verses 12 through 41 recounts the history of the Israelites and details the ways God provided for them and guided them out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and to the promised land. The Lord remembered His covenant with Abraham. The historical account begins with the covenant God made with Abraham (vs. 9). God had protected their forefathers in foreign lands (vs. 12-15). God called for a famine to ultimately lead Jacob’s family to Egypt. God raised up Joseph to become a ruler in Egypt and a savior to his people (vs. 16-23). Next, the Israelites became very numerous, causing the Egyptians to turn against them (vs. 24-25). God sent Moses and Aaron to deliver them from their oppressors and bring Israel out of Egypt through wondrous deeds: the ten plagues (vs. 26-36). Lastly, the Lord led them and provided for them through the wilderness to the promised land (vs. 37-41). It would be interesting to write out a chronological testimony of how God orchestrated events in our lives. In some ways, an individual’s life is like the history of Israel. From our aged perspective (for most of us) we can reflect on times of trouble and deliverance. We are covered by the covenant of Christ and attest to God being faithful and remembering.

Covenant Fulfilled (Psalm 105:43-45) p. 75

Because of His covenant promise with Abraham, God brought the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity to the promised land.

God chose Israel in an act of His grace. But God's grace demands a human response, in this case the Israelites were to live in obedience to Him as His covenant people. God fulfilled the promise He made to Abraham. God's protection and provision were given so that the Israelites would obey His commands. The apostle Paul broadened the nature of God's promise concerning the land that was to be inherited, writing that Abraham's descendants would inherit the entire world. **Romans 4:13** *"For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."* God's plan has always been the redemption of humanity, not just the biological descendants of Abraham. The ultimate fulfillment of this promise will occur when God creates the new heaven and new earth in which believers in God and His Messiah Jesus Christ will dwell with them forever. While the making of the covenant was an act of God's grace, there were/are stipulations or moral obligations the Israelites were to fulfill in keeping their part of the covenant. The Israelites from generation to generation were to keep God's statutes and obey God's instruction. Doing so would enable the Israelites to live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you for all time. **Deuteronomy 4:40** *"You shall therefore keep His [God's] statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."* God's love is unconditional but God's covenant requires active participation. The relationship between Yahweh and His people was to be one of love and commitment, with the Israelites expressing their love for God by keeping His statutes and obeying His instructions. Psalm 105 relates all that the Lord, Yahweh, did for His people. We can relate to this psalm thinking about all that God has done for us.