

Psalm 105 (Verses 1-15 come from 1 Chron. 16:8-22)

¹⁻⁷ All who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah¹,

What we should do

Call upon the name of the LORD, and tell everyone about all of His great and mighty works. Sing praises to Him that tell about His wonders. Glory in His holy name, and encourage those who seek to know the LORD in a personal way to be glad that He is their LORD. Seek to know the LORD in a personal, intimate way, and know that He is always smiling upon you. Then you will experience the LORD's strength to accomplish anything He chooses for you to do. Remember all of the amazing works He has done, the marvelous wonders He has performed, and the judgments He has made against Israel's enemies.

Why we should do these things

The LORD is our God, but who is the LORD? He is none other than Jesus Christ, the Messiah. He is the One who decides what will take place on the earth. ⁸⁻¹¹ Fortunately, He has remembered His everlasting covenant with Abraham and Isaac. When He made that promise He said it would be valid for a thousand generations. Later He confirmed the covenant with Jacob as an everlasting covenant. At that time the LORD said, "To you I give the land of Canaan as a portion of your inheritance."

What happened when there were but few in number

¹² Early on, there were just a few of Jacob's (Israel's) people, and they were strangers in the land. ¹³ At that time they wandered from one nation to another and from one kingdom to another. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Even though they were considered strangers everywhere they went, the LORD didn't permit any man to hurt them or cause them loss. He also reproved kings by telling them, "Don't you dare touch My anointed ones, and don't harm My prophets. If you do, you are a dead man."

How the LORD prepared Israel for the future

¹⁶ In order to accomplish the LORD's will, He caused a great famine to devastate the land. As a result, those who had not prepared ahead of time had nothing to eat. ¹⁷ In order to save Israel and his family the LORD sent Joseph to Egypt as a slave. ¹⁸ For years he was in prison where he was put in shackles and wore an iron collar. ¹⁹ He was there until the time when the LORD was ready to test him to see if Joseph would give God the glory. ²⁰ At the right time, Pharaoh sent for him, heard his wisdom, and set him free. ²¹ Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he made him a lord in the kingdom and ruler over all that Pharaoh possessed. ²² Joseph was a dedicated servant, and he imprisoned some of Pharaoh's princes so that they would learn to be honest and look out for Pharaoh's best interest.

How the LORD punished Israel

²³ In time Israel (Jacob) and all he possessed came to live in Egypt under Joseph's protection. He and his family were placed in the best part of Egypt. ²⁴ Jacob's people were a strong folk, and they multiplied to become greater in number than the Egyptians. ²⁵ In time, the LORD allowed the people of Egypt to hate the children of Israel. They made life hard for the Israelites by loading them down with very hard labor and by attempting to force midwives to kill all of Israel's male babies at birth. ²⁶ In time, God chose Moses and Aaron, and sent them to Egypt to deliver the children of Israel. ²⁷ They performed some fantastic miracles in front of Pharaoh, but he would not let Israel go free. ²⁸ As a result, a thick darkness enveloped the whole land of Egypt exactly as the LORD had commanded. ²⁹ That didn't make Pharaoh repent, so the LORD turned their water supply into blood so that all of the fish died. ³⁰ He caused frogs to cover the land filling even Pharaoh's own room with hundreds of frogs. ³¹ The LORD spoke the word, and swarms of flies and gnats were everywhere in the land. ³² He caused thunderclouds to form with large hail and massive lightning strikes killing any animals left in the open. ³³ He destroyed their grape vines, their fig trees, and their fruit trees. ³⁴ He spoke and the land was filled with grasshoppers ³⁵ which ate up all of the fruit-bearing vegetation on the ground. ³⁶ Since none of these plagues caused Pharaoh to repent, the LORD killed the firstborn of everyone who did not have blood on the doorpost of their house, even Pharaoh's son. ³⁷ This got their attention, so much so that Pharaoh told the children of Israel to get out of Egypt. ³⁸⁻³⁸ The Egyptians were glad to see them go and loaded them down with gold, silver, and other precious items because they were afraid of what Israel's God might do next.

How the LORD led Israel

³⁹ Once they had left Egypt, the LORD formed a cloud to guide them by day and a flaming fire to illumine them at night. ⁴⁰ They selfishly asked for meat, and to their detriment God brought an abundance of quail into their camp. After that He rained down manna each day so that they would have all they needed to eat. ⁴¹ He caused a giant rock to split down the middle and gush forth a river of water for them to drink. It flowed through the dry desert watering everything in its path. (Just a thought: it is possible that the river was flowing in the same direction the people would go in their wanderings. If this were the case, they would have all the water they needed as they travelled, at least for a while.) ⁴² The LORD did all of these things for Israel because He remembered His covenant with His servant Abraham. ⁴³ So, He brought forth His chosen people with a shout of joy. ⁴⁴ Then He caused them to conquer the lands of the nations of Canaan so that they could enjoy the fruit of that peoples' labor. ⁴⁵ Why did He do all of these miracles? It was so that the people of Israel would learn to love Him and keep all of His commandments. Praise the LORD! Isn't He wonderful?

¹ In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used."