

Psalm 106 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good

(vss. 1 and 47-48 come from 1 Chron. 16:34-36)

¹ Hey folks, brag about the LORD our God! Give Him thanks because He is good and because His lovingkindness is eternal. ² Since the LORD is so great, I ask you, "Is there anyone, anywhere, who can recite all of the mighty deeds He has done throughout all the ages or proclaim all of the praises and thanksgiving due His holy name?" The answer is obvious. No human being is capable of such an exhaustive feat. There are simply too many for a mortal man to know or explain. ³ In light of how loving and kind the LORD is, happy is the man who imitates the LORD by always treating his neighbor the way he deserves and by making a practice of doing what is good, right, and just toward his neighbor and toward the LORD.

⁴ LORD, I try my best to do those things, so please remember me. You know me, the one with all the troubles and heartaches. When You do, I trust that You will show favor toward both Israel and me. Oh LORD, please visit me, and deliver me from all of my troubles ⁵ so that

- 1) I can live to see the way You produce good and pleasant things in and for Your chosen ones of Israel,
- 2) I may be absolutely thrilled with the way You will one day make Israel glad that You are their God, and
- 3) I may brag about the fact that You are Israel's inheritance.

What more could I or the nation of Israel ask of their God?

⁶ LORD, we want more than anything for You to deliver us, and I want you to deliver me too. Unfortunately, there is one major problem standing in Your way. It is that we have sinned just like our fathers before us. We have committed evil and have done morally perverted deeds equally as wrong as they. Yes, we have behaved very, very badly. In fact, our fathers have sinned in a number of different ways, and we are no better. So, let me rehearse seven of those ways for You.

Fear and distrust

1) ⁷ Our fathers didn't understand all that You were trying to accomplish through Your mighty miracles in the land of Egypt, nor did they understand that while You were performing those miracles You were pouring out Your tender love and kindness upon Israel. Because they didn't understand Your care for them, as soon as the going got tough they rebelled against You. In fact, they had only gone as far as the Red Sea before they started grumbling and complaining. ⁸ Yet, in spite of their fear and ungratefulness You saved them, but You did it for the glory of Your holy name and not solely for them. Your goal was to make Your great power and majesty known to the whole world so that they would learn to fear You. ⁹ To that end You commanded the

waters of the Red Sea to part, and You commanded the ground where the waters had been to dry out so that the children of Israel could cross the sea as though they were walking down a well-traveled highway. Once it was dry, You led Your people across the sea the same way You led them through the wilderness, and You did this until every last one of them was safely across. ¹⁰ Pharaoh and his army hated Israel and her God, but to show Pharaoh and the whole world Your awesome power, You redeemed Israel from destruction by providing an escape. ¹¹ As soon as the children of Israel were safely across the sea You cleared the clouds that had obscured the Egyptians' view, and they started across the dry part of the sea in hot pursuit of the Israelites. Once they were in the middle of the sea You simply let the waters slam back together, and not one of the Egyptians lived to tell about it. ¹² When the Israelites saw the waters come crashing together to destroy Egypt's army, they believed the LORD, and they sang praises to His name.

Greed

2) ¹³ Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the Israelites forgot about all the wonderful and powerful miracles God did for them, and they were not willing to wait for You to counsel them about how they should live. ¹⁴ Although You had given them manna every day, they intensely coveted meat in the wilderness. In doing so they sinned and tempted You to destroy them. ¹⁵ You did not obliterate all of them though, because instead of completely destroying them, You gave them the meat they desired accompanied by a plague that killed many of them. Their sin certainly did cost a great deal.

Jealousy

3) ¹⁶ On another occasion some of the people became jealous of Moses and the high priest, Aaron. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ As a result of their rebellion and defiance, the ground opened its mouth and swallowed Dathan, Abiram, and all who supported them¹. Once they, their family, their possessions, and all of those who supported them had fallen into the hole, the ground closed together again.

Apostasy

4) ¹⁹ On yet another occasion, the children of Israel were in Horeb where the people persuaded Aaron to make a gold casting of a calf, and when it was completed they began to worship the image. ²⁰ In doing so they exchanged the glory of Jehovah God into a powerless image of a stupid cow that couldn't do anything for them. ²¹ Simply put, they forgot about the wonderful and powerful miracles the LORD God had done to rescue them from Egypt, ²² they forgot about the wonderful and powerful miracles He did in Pharaoh's realm to free God's people, and they forgot about the wonderful and powerful miracle the LORD did when He opened the Red Sea as a safe passageway for the children of Israel and as a tomb for the armies of Egypt. ²³ Because they were so ungrateful and rebellious, God decided to obliterate all of them from the face of the earth, and He certainly would have wiped out then and there if Moses had not begged God to spare them.

Refusal to obey

5) ²⁴ As if all of those things were not bad enough, they refused to believe the promises of God. They would not go into the land flowing with milk and honey because they were afraid that there was no way that they could win a war against the giants there. ²⁵ Instead, they sat in their tents grumbling and complaining about how God had brought them all the way to the Jordan River only to face defeat. You see, they simply did not believe God when He said that they would win the battle and gain the land. ²⁶ As a result of their unbelief, the LORD swore with an oath that a whole generation of men and women would die in the wilderness, and only the youthful ones who were innocent of this sin would enter the promised land. ²⁷ He would simply scatter their corpses among the nations as they wandered through the wilderness. ²⁸ Somewhere along their journey the people of Israel joined with wicked neighbors to worship the false god of Baal-peor. They even went so far as to eat meat that had been sacrificed to the dead. ²⁹ In doing so, they provoked God to the point of anger because of their evil practices, and a severe plague broke out among them. ³⁰ While the plague was in full swing, a man named Phinehas stood up and interceded with God on their behalf. The LORD heard his plea, and the plague quickly ended. ³¹ By that one godly act, this man's faith and trust in the LORD was attributed to him as an example of righteousness for all generations to see and imitate.

Refusal to trust

6) ³² They provoked God to anger once again at Meribah where water came out of the rock. There they grumbled against the LORD because they did not have water, and Moses was grieved and worn out by their continual complaining. ³³ Moses became angry with them because they had grieved God's Holy Spirit, and as a result he struck the rock with his staff instead of speaking to the rock like God had commanded him². He did this hastily and without considering the results of his actions. In his anger he directly disobeyed God's command to strike the rock, so God told Moses that he would not live to enter the land of Canaan.

Wearied of fighting

7) ³⁴ When the children of Israel finally crossed the Jordan river and entered Canaan they did not destroy all of the Canaanites like God had commanded. ³⁵ As a result, they ended up mingling with those wicked people. It wasn't long before they had learned their evil practices, ³⁶ and they fell into the trap of worshipping and serving those false gods. ³⁷ They even went so far as to shed the blood of their own sons and daughters by offering them as human sacrifices to those demons. ³⁸ Because they worshipped those false gods and sacrificed their children to them, the whole land became polluted with innocent blood. ³⁹ In this way they became filthy and impure in their practices, and they committed spiritual adultery by their deeds. ⁴⁰ Because of their rebellion, the LORD became angry with His people, and He regretted that He had told the world that they belonged to Him. ⁴¹ Israel had abandoned the LORD, so He allowed their enemies to conquer them in battle and take them as slaves. ⁴² These evil people really put pressure

on the children of Israel and made them submit to the power and authority of an evil nation. ⁴³ During their captivity in a foreign land there were many times when the LORD would have saved them, but they remained steadfast in their rebellion toward Him. That rebellion caused them to sink deeper and deeper into their sin and depravity. ⁴⁴ All the while the LORD was watching their distress and hearing their cry for help. ⁴⁵ Then, when He felt they had gone far enough in their sin, the LORD remembered the covenant He had made with them, and in keeping with His tender love and kindness, He changed His mind. ⁴⁶ At that point He caused their captors to have a change of mind so that they started to look upon the children of Israel with favor and compassion.

⁴⁷ LORD God, I know that we are sinners, but please save us and gather us from among the nations. Bring us back to Jerusalem so that we can give thanks to Your holy name there. When You do, all of us together will praise and glorify Your name. ⁴⁸ Listen to me all of you who are among the children of God; praise the LORD, the God of Israel, both now and forever. Let all the people say, "Amen, praise the LORD!"

¹ See Numbers chapter 16

² See Numbers 20:8-10

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