



Pastor's Update

Psalm 107

Psalm 107 is the first Psalm of the Book Five, the last group of Psalms. To recall, the Book of Psalms is divided into five Books as follows: Book One (Psalm 1-14); Book Two (Psalm 42-72); Book Three (Psalm 73-89); Book Four (Psalm 90-106); Book Five (Psalm 107-150). Psalm 107 is a call to thanksgiving addressed to the Israelites who returned from exile to Jerusalem. To encourage this, the Psalmist gives instances of the LORD's goodness to people in various adversities of life. The prayer of Psalm 106:45 has been answered. Israel has been brought back from the lands of exile to its own land. The Psalmist calls upon "The LORD's redeemed ones" to unite in offering to Him thanksgiving which was contemplated as the object of their restoration in Psalm 106:47, "Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, to give tanks to Your holy name."

In verses 1-3, those who have been redeemed by the LORD are invited to give thanks. The reasons given for the call to give thanks to the LORD is "because He is good, and His lovingkindness is eternal" (Psa. 107:1). The word lovingkindness is the important Hebrew term "Hesed" which can also be translated as steadfast love, mercy, kindness and favor. In the Old Testament, Hesed describes a (covenant) relationship of mutuality between individuals or groups, and between God and human beings, especially Israel. It expresses both an attitude and actions devolving from that attitude.

In verses 4-32, The Psalmist describes four typical deliverances which the LORD executed for people in various life adversities.

1st Deliverance (vv. 4-9): The LORD guided some who had lost their way.

2nd Deliverance (vv. 10-16): The LORD rescued those who were living in bondage.

3rd Deliverance (vv. 17-22): The LORD healed some from mortal illness.

4th Deliverance (vv. 23-32): The LORD delivered some from the danger of the stormy sea.

"He that will learn to pray, let him go to Sea" – This quotation from Welsh poet George Herbert (1593 - 1633) - reflects seafarers' long-standing conviction that at sea we find the ultimate in awe and terror.

In verses 33-42, The same saving activity of the LORD is shown in Israel's history.

In verse 43, The wise person is invited to consider God's love through His saving acts.

Theological and Practical Truths:

1. The gracious events in our lives are reflections of God's steadfast love.
2. The appropriate response to God's expression of love is Thanksgiving (verses 1, 8, 15, 21, 31).
3. God is able to deliver from all the possible varieties of adversities.
4. The wise person takes time to consider God's act of love.
5. The supreme evidence of God's love is the salvation He accomplished through the death of His Son Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:8).

By God's Grace and for His glory,

Pr. Francis