

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Psalm 107.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Psalm 107.

Topics.

- Israel cried to the LORD and he led them to a city to dwell in.
- Those who rebelled against the Most High sat in the shadow of death.
- Israel saw Gods, wondrous works for He commanded the waves of the sea.
- They reeled and staggered like drunken men at their wits' end.
- God delivered them from distress and brought them to their desired haven.
- God turns a desert into pools of water, and there they establish a city.
- By God's blessing Israel multiplied and their livestock did not diminish.
- Whoever is wise; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

INTRODUCTION: Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Book Five (Psalm 107-150)

Israel Cried to the LORD and He led them to a City to Dwell In.

Psalm 107:1-7 ----- ¹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

The Psalmist calls all the redeemed of Israel to thank the LORD for his steadfast love which endures forever. The following two expressions are recurring expressions throughout this Psalm: -

- God's steadfast love endures forever is repeated six times.
- God delivered them from their distress is repeated five times.

God has gathered them from the east west, north and south embraces Israel's wanderings through the land of Canaan until they reached a city to dwell in. Of course the city they reached to dwell in was Jerusalem it is called God's Holy City and is seated on Mount Zion which is called God's Holy Mountain. The following verses show how much God values Jerusalem.

- The LORD said to him (Solomon), "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house (the Temple at Jerusalem) that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. (1 Kings 9:3).

But, if Israel turns from the LORD, He will destroy the Temple.

- If you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ⁸And this house will become a heap of ruins. Everyone passing by it will be astonished and will hiss, and they will say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' ⁹Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore the LORD has brought all this disaster on them.' (1 Kings 9:6-9).

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and distress: (v6) the only reason the people of Israel would have been hungry and thirsty and in trouble and distress is because they had acted corruptly before the LORD. This is because all Israel at Mount Sinai entered into a covenant of blessings and curses with the LORD. Providing Israel did what was right before the LORD and obeyed God's laws the covenant promised the people of Israel that: -

- They would be God's treasured possession and be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-8).
- God would prosper their health, their land, their homes, their farms, their livestock and all they put their hand to do and make them the head of all nations and not the tail.

But, if Israel broke the covenant and turned to other gods to worship them the covenant promised the people of Israel that: -

- God would bring all sorts of sicknesses and plaques upon them and their cities and their livestock and lay waste their land.
- God would bring ruin to their homes, their crops, their farms and all they put their hand to and had established and they would become the tail of all nations and not the head.

This means that if Israel obeyed the covenant and remained faithful to God He would bless their health and materialistically bless them in every other way possible. No enemy would ever defeat them and everything they did would abundantly prosper. (The blessing and curses are in Deut. 28).

A warning to all earth-dwellers: the fact God turns Israel's fruitful land into barren waste because of their wickedness should be a warning to all earth dwellers. It is a principal of God that the further mankind denies His existence and His ways the further He removes His hand of blessing and the more the earth and those who dwell upon it suffer. Today our schools teach our children evolution as a scientific truth and it denies the existence of God.

Added to this, wars, rape, violence, murders and theft is common today, young teenage girls are sold as sex slaves amongst most nations world-wide and drugs are globally rampant. When mankind denies their creator and turns from His ways to do their own thing all creation and every living thing under the sun suffers.

God's people called to thank God.

Psalm 107:8-9 ----- ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! ⁹For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

It is the spirit of humans God satisfies, the good things the LORD fills the human heart with are, happiness, peace, contentment, joy and His steadfast love, grace and mercy. All of these blessings are available to the person who yields their life to God and trust's in Him and His plan of salvation, regardless of whether they are Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, unknown or famous, prospering or in difficulty God will touch and meet the need of the human heart.

God's spiritual blessings are only dependant upon our faith and trust in Him and the desire to outwardly live a life that brings honour and a good testimony to His name.

Those who Rebelled against the Most High Sat in the Shadow of Death.

Psalm 107:10-14 ----- ¹⁰Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, ¹¹for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹²So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. ¹³Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

Since Israel continually sinned against the Most High God these verses could refer to any period of their history when their enemies overcame them and oppressed them, but the most likely time period would be their seventy years in captivity to the Empire of Babylon especially since no one came to their aid, but rather mocked and scorned them and even God had forsaken them because of their gross corrupt wickedness and rebellion.

Prior to Israel's captivity they had set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets and not only rebelled against the LORD and turned to other gods, but had also entered into gross sin so the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (who He called His servant (Jer. 25:9) to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. The curses of the Covenant are found in (Deut. 28:15-68) and the blessing of the Covenant in (Deut. 28:1-14)

The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah, laid their farm land waste, attacked Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) and pillaged the temple. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken in chains there with him (around 587 B.C.). Later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. They went into captivity to the Empire of Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods and were under Babylonian rule for the next seventy years.

Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

Now here is the good news: while in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and took by His right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again)

Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory: -

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

God delivered them from their distress: (v13) this is a constant principal throughout the Old Testament, God's people rebel against Him, the LORD humbles them through difficult circumstances they turn to God and cry to Him for deliverance and He hears their prayers and delivers them. The words, "He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart," (v14) echoes the following New Testament verse: -

- He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:13).

Salvation is not about becoming rich, wealthy, famous, and important or acquiring an abundance of material assets, Gods salvation is all about being delivered from the kingdom of darkness and eternal death to the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17).

Eating and drinking in this verse also embraces everything the world has to offer. Even today God may bless certain Christians with riches and material wealth, and it is right and proper that they should praise God for such blessings if they are earned honestly. But it would certainly not be right and proper if they indulge themselves in an extravagant lifestyle of worldly luxury rather than do-good with the abundance they have been blessed with. This is because worldly riches and prosperity is not what the Kingdom of God and the message of the bloodstained cross or the Gospel is about. God's salvation is all about being delivered from the kingdom of darkness and eternal death to the Kingdom of God and eternal life it is not about becoming rich, wealthy, famous, and important or acquiring an abundance of material assets.

God's people called to thank God.

Psalm 107:15-22 ----- ¹⁵Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! ¹⁶For he shatters the doors of bronze (gates of brass in KJV) and cuts in two the bars of iron. ¹⁷Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹Then cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁰He sent out his word, healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! ²²let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

The expression, "He shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron," (v16) in the context of this Psalm most likely refers to God giving Cyrus the King of Persia mighty power and not only using him as His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28), but also taking him by his right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to free Israel from their seventy years in captivity to the Empire of Babylon. But it is also an expression that highlights the following: -

- It matters not how fortified an enemies city is it cannot protect against God's awesome power, if He chooses He will bring it to ruin as he did with Egypt, the city of Jericho the Empire of Babylon and many others that oppressed His people.
- It does it matter how powerful a nations weapons of mass destruction are or how destructive an armies weapons of war might be against God they are but toys.
- No matter how bound a person maybe held captive to the law of sin and death the power of God's plan of salvation and grace will set whoever accepts it with a right heart attitude completely free.

Some were fools and because of their iniquities suffered affliction: (v17) though this clearly refers to any situation and any man or woman it is most likely an allusion to Israel and Judah prior to the Assyrian and Babylonian invasion upon their land, cities and villages since the people of Israel at this time had set their

hearts diamond hard against the LORD and because of this a multitude of sins permeated their land throughout their generations. Unrestrained the following sins eventually became like a contagious virus running rampant throughout the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. The people of Israel defiled God's Holy name and their own land by their lifestyle, deeds and actions. They committed gross idolatry and Baal altars were set up throughout their land.

They worshipped the goddess of love and fertility (her worship was sexually indecent). Worse than this they worshipped Moloch and sacrificed their sons to him in the Hinnom valley. They worshipped a golden calf at a religious centre at Dan and at a religious centre at Bethel. Altars were set up in the temple court for planetary worship and the worship of the host of heaven (i.e., the sun, moon and stars) and worship of idols and altars had been built under shady trees on their hills throughout their land.

Added to this innocent people were killed and cheated out of justice, leaders oppressed others for their own selfish gain and drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality was rampant. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor and instead of relieving their economic distress they devised new means of depriving them of their property. Is it any wonder the LORD compares Israel's ways to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity? (Ezek. 36:17) and poured out His wrath upon Judah, Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Truly the statement some acted as fools is an understatement of Israel's actions at this time.

The lesson for today: by wicked behaviour Israel defiled the name of God which resulted in the surrounding nations mocking and despising God. This shines a light on the following truth: the behaviour of everyone who confesses the name of God and Christ His Son will determine to some extent whether outsiders are drawn to God or to despise Him. We are not witnesses to the Lord only when we are sharing our faith with another person our entire life is a witness to our faith and of God it can be a good witness or a bad witness.

They loathed any kind of food: (v18) is an allusion to the manna and quail. When the people of Israel were in the wilderness of Sin (Exod. 16:1) all of Israel accused Moses and Aaron of killing them with hunger (Exod. 16:3) so the LORD said He would rain bread from heaven (Exod. 16:4). During their forty years in the wilderness every morning they had manna to eat and in the evening they had quail to eat (Exod. 16:13-14). They ate manna for forty years, but the day after they ate of the produce of the land of Canaan the manna stopped (Joshua 5:12). Manna was like white coriander seed (Exod. 16:31) and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey (Exod. 16:31).

Israel saw God's, wondrous Works for He commanded the Waves of the Sea.

Psalms 107:23-25 ----- ²³Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; ²⁴they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. ²⁵For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

The expression, "they go down to the sea" is used because the sea is lower than the land, and because from the high lands of Judah it was a literal descent to the shores of the Mediterranean. The focus of the Psalmist in these verses changes from those that wander in the desert and who are in prison and sick to those who encounter the dangers of the ocean to do business and mariners or fisher-men or merchants who take passengers and cargo across the oceans and to those who are employed on ships. They saw the deeds of the LORD and His wondrous works in the deep: (v24) can refer to the following three things: -

1. God's creation of the vast variety of fish small and large and of all kinds of shapes which are not seen by others who are not employed to work on the oceans.
2. God's abundant provision of food they catch in their nets.
3. God's protection in keeping them safe during dangerous stormy winds and violent waves.

God commanded and raised the stormy wind: (v25) the faithful of the Old Testament saw everything in creation and in their lives (good or bad) as being under the control of God's hand and His power. They did not consider that God was out of control of anything that He created and therefore saw Him as being in control of the stormy winds that caused the waves of the sea to violently thresh against the ship so that it reeled to and fro.

Even Jesus the Son of God was able to calm the storm simply by speaking to it which means the faith of the Old Testament believers was right and proper in believing that the invisible, immortal Almighty God of all creation and source of all life had power over our whether conditions, (both the beautiful sunny days and the dark stormy days). The faith of the Old Testament faithful is beautifully expressed in the faith of Job and Habakkuk. Even though Job suffered great affliction his attitude was: -

- Though he slays me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).

Habakkuk begins his prayer saying, "Even though his body trembles at the power of the LORD and he feels weak and feeble because of the enemies who are coming to invade his land, he will quietly wait for the day of trouble." He then ends his prayer with the following great words of faith.

- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Hab. 3:17-19).

Job and Habakkuk made the LORD their fortress and refuge by making him their greatest love, their best thought and the passion of their heart and mind and rested in the knowledge that if everything fails in this life they would be raised to be with the Lord in eternal glory where happiness everlasting dwells and while living in this life rested in the confidence and faith that the Lord was with them by his Spirit, his love and his grace.

A personal note: I have seen a man born with no legs and no arms, (Nick Vujicic) who to the natural mind would appear a mistake made by God, but this man lived his life before God worshipped him and kept a right attitude as did David, Job and Habakkuk. He is an amazing testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and went on to become one of the world's greatest motivational speakers. He is an encouragement to hundreds of thousands of people who are suffering their own difficult circumstances.

I have heard testimonies of teenage girls who have suffered absolute horror, terror and abuse find the love of God and go on to become the source of comfort to many hurting girls in similar circumstances and help them live a life of mental and emotional freedom and joy. We may not all reach hundreds of people, but if we take the right attitude to difficult circumstance we can all be an amazing testimony to God and to those who know us. While on this side of eternity no-one is exempt from trouble and difficulty, it is the attitude and how we go through it with that makes the difference. God does not promise freedom from trouble but He does promise comfort, love and strength to cope and grow from it.

They Mounted up to Heaven and Went Down to the Depths.

Psalm 107:26 ----- ²⁶They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight;

The expression, "they mount up to heaven and went down to the depths" refers to the sailors in the ship. It is poetic language picturing the ship being raised so high on the top of the stormy waves that it feels to those on board as if they would touch the clouds and then as they sink back down into the valley of the waves so low it feels to the fear and dread of the passengers as if the ship would be buried in the bottom of the sea. This is why their courage melted away in their evil (i.e., their horrific and fearful) plight.

They Reeled and Staggered like Drunken Men at their Wits' End.

Psalm 107:27 ----- ²⁷they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.

This is a picture of the ship with the mariners on board stagger and reeling in the storm and spinning round and round until they are giddy like drunken men are, but not from the giddiness of their heads which is common to drunkards, but from the violent and various motions of the ship being tossed around as a cork in the stormy sea.

They were at their wits end: carries the idea that all their wisdom was swallowed up, all that could been done by the wisdom of naval skills, knowledge, navigation and experience had been done and all was useless. The ship was violently tossed and whirled about that it was almost impossible to stand upon the decks. At their wits end means they were so totally and utterly helpless against the wild stormy winds and the raging waves that their only hope of deliverance was solely dependent upon God to save them.

God delivered them from Distress and Brought them to their Desired Haven.

Psalm 107:28-30 ----- ²⁸Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

The sailors had done all that could humanly be done to save the ship, but to no avail so they earnestly prayed to the LORD to save them. A storm at sea or on land often brings men and women on their knees who have never prayed before when they fear that death is near and their only help is in God, but praying is something that should be done both on good days and bad days. The expression, "He brought them to their desired haven," refers to God answering their prayer by calming the storm and the sea and safely bringing the ship back to its harbour.

The poetic picture of the ship being tossed to and fro by the roaring waves of the sea and the sailors on board can be seen as our present state and the goodness of God displayed in our salvation. With this idea in mind the symbolism would be as follows: -

- The ship: would symbolise the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sea: would symbolise the world.
- The waves: would symbolise the temptations, persecutions, sorrows and afflictions that come our way.
- The haven: would symbolise the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- The stormy wind: would symbolise the prince of the power of the air.
- The harbour: would symbolise heaven and eternity the final port of rest, safety and security.

God turns Rivers into a Desert, Because of the Evil of its Inhabitants.

Psalm 107:31-34 ----- ³¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! ³²Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. ³³He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, ³⁴a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.

The only reason God would dry up rivers and springs of Israel's fruitful land and turn it into deserts and barren waste would be because of their corruption and rebellion against Him. The fact God turns Israel's fruitful land into barren waste because of their wickedness should be a warning to all earth dwellers. It is a principal of God that the further mankind denies His existence and His ways the

further He removes His hand of blessing and the more the earth and those who dwell upon it suffer. Today our schools teach our children evolution as a scientific truth and it denies the existence of God. Added to this, wars, rape, violence, murders and theft is common today, young teenage girls are sold as sex slaves amongst most nations world-wide and drugs are globally rampant, when mankind denies their creator and turns from His ways to do their own thing all creation and every living thing under the sun suffers.

He Turns a Desert into Pools of Water, and there they Establish a City.

Psalm 107:35-36 ----- ³⁵He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. ³⁶And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in;

This is in absolute contrast to the previous verses and perhaps an allusion to the following verses: -

- The LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. (Exod. 17:5-6)
- Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" ¹¹And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. (Num. 20:10-11).

Israel was wandering in the deserts of the wilderness and had no water to drink so God through Moses caused a river of fresh water to flow out of a rock in the barren desert. In this story God did not give Israel this river to drink off because of any righteousness of their own, they were actually complaining and murmuring against Him, but because of the promise He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and for His name sake, but it does highlight the truth that God is well able to turn a desert into an oasis since this was not a little trickle of water that flowed out of this rock, but a river. This rock and river that saved an entire nation can be seen as a symbol of Christ and his Spirit flowing out through all nations of the world and satisfying the barren and thirsting heart of all who come to drink of his life giving power.

- Jesus said: "I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," (Matt. 16:15-18).

The rock Christ will build his church on is Peter's revelation that, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God." Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- It is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (Rom. 9:33).

The stumbling stone God laid in Zion the mountain Jerusalem is built upon was the Lord Jesus Christ. To the Corinthians Paul wrote: -

- All drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4).

By God's Blessing Israel Multiplied and their Livestock did Not Diminish.

Psalm 107:37-40 ----- ³⁷they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. ³⁸By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. ³⁹When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow, ⁴⁰he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes.

When the people of Israel did what is right before God not only did God bless their livestock vines and crops so that they multiplied, but also everything they put their hand to would prosper. But if they did what was evil before the LORD not only would they be humbled and oppressed by their enemies, but God would also pour

out contempt (disdain and disapproval) on Israel's kings, princes, priests and rulers and remove them from their privileged positions of power, authority and honour. This God clearly did when He used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant (Jer. 25:9) and his armies to lay the land of Israel waste, burn the city of Jerusalem, pillage the temple of its sacred items and take the people into captivity to the Empire of Babylon for seventy years.

Whoever is Wise; Let them Consider the Steadfast Love of the LORD.

Psalm 107:41-43 ----- ⁴¹but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks. ⁴²The upright (righteous in KJV) see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth (all iniquity shall stop her mouth in KJV). ⁴³Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

The Psalmist calls all the wise to consider what he has said in this Psalm, which when summed up embraces the following two truths: -

1. God favours nations and all who believe in Him and will bless those who do all they can to live a lifestyle that honours Him and maintain peace.
2. God withdraws his favour from nations and those who deliberately and consciously deny Him and live a lifestyle that is corrupt and brings harm and hurt to others.

The upright (righteous in KJV) see it and are glad (v42) means they will be glad and rejoice when they see: -

- God's wonderful works of favour and mercy upon His people.
- The manifestation of God's dominion over mankind.
- God's mercies poured out upon those in need, grief and misery.
- God's judgments and justice brought upon His enemies.
- Christ's return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to gather the faithful to himself and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

All wickedness shuts its mouth: (v42) (all iniquity shall stop her mouth in KJV) carries the following ideas: -

- When the wicked see the faithful continue to praise God during troublesome times when there seems to be no apparent reason for praise and joy they will be silenced and dumb-founded since they can only find reason to complain, murmur and moan.
- The just dealings God's will be so manifestly just and so worthy of universal approval and praise that even though the wicked are given to complain against God they will not be able to find anything that will justify them in such complaints.
- The prideful who speak against God in His management of the world will not only be forced to acknowledge His power and justice in the judgments that He brings upon them, but will also have nothing to say in their defence against their own condemnation.
- All the arrogant who scoff and speak with malice and oppress others for their own gain and speak against God and His ways will not only be silenced and have nothing to say against the wisdom and judgment of God, but will also be confounded and through shame lay their hand on their mouths and be struck with awe and admiration at the wonderful things done by the Lord for His people.