

# The God Of Deliverance

**Introduction.** God has done so much for us, and we have so much for which to thank Him (Psalm 103:1-5). He wants us to tell everyone all that He has done. Psalm 107 is a fourfold picture of "the redeemed of the Lord". The opening verses (vv. 1-3) set the psalm in the great deliverance of Israel from exile. These verses are not so much a mandate to testify, as a declaration that when we walk with the Lord by faith, we will not be able to keep this glorious experience to ourselves (cp. Acts 1:8; 8:4).

## ***I. From Weariness To Rest (vv. 4-9)***

- A. Their condition (vv. 4-5).
  - 1. They were "wanderers in the wilderness" as those who had lost their way, in "solitary ways," perplexed, and wearied.
  - 2. They were "hungry and thirsty," their souls clamoring for what they could not get. "Their soul fainted in them," sank down in despair.
- B. Their petition (v. 6a).
  - 1. "They cried to the Lord." They were shut up to faith.
  - 2. Heaven's ear, like Heaven's door, is always open to the cry of need (Revelation 3:20).
- C. Their salvation (vv. 6b-9).
  - 1. "He delivered them." They typify anyone who has not found the satisfaction that comes from knowing God.
  - 2. He did it by leading them forth by "the right way" (Jeremiah 6:16). They were led into truth and out of deception so they "might go to a city of habitation."
  - 3. Anyone who recognizes his or her own condemnation can receive the offer of Christ to satisfy these needs. Jesus is the living water (John 4:10-14), the bread from heaven (John 6:33, 35), the way (John 14:6), and the giver of rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

## ***II. From Darkness To Light (vv. 10-16)***

- A. Their condition (vv. 10-12).
  - 1. They were "sitting in darkness." They did not know where they were. They were "in the shadow of death," a place of imminent danger.
  - 2. They were in "affliction and iron," a condition of painful bondage. They were helpless and defeated because they "rebelled" against God.
- B. Their petition (v. 13a).
  - 1. "They cried to the Lord." They had to come to the light.
  - 2. What a mercy that they had someone to cry to who is powerful to save.

C. Their salvation (vv. 13b-16).

1. "He saved them ... brought them out of darkness." In God's deliverance, there is light (Ephesians 5:8) and freedom (Luke 4:18).
2. Most people think that those in prison deserve whatever misery they experience as punishment for their crimes. But God loves all men and women no matter how far they have fallen if they are only willing to repent (Acts 3:19). He wants to reach them with His grace and remove the bondage of sin (Romans 8:15; Hebrews 2:14-18).

**III. From Sickness To Health (vv. 17-22)**

A. Their condition (vv. 17-18).

1. "Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat." They were so sick of their old life and its pleasures that nothing belonging to it was enjoyed.
2. "They drew near unto the gates of death." They were dying of starvation. This was the result of deep conviction to a sinful life (Isaiah 6:5).

B. Their petition (19a).

1. "Then they cried to the Lord." There is only one cure (Acts 4:12).
2. Those who are sick of the world can turn to God (Isaiah 55:1-5; Acts 13:34).

C. Their salvation (19b-22).

1. "He saved them." Fools and rebels surely bring trouble on themselves. This psalm offers hope for those who have made a mess of their lives.
2. "He sent to His word and healed them." His word believed will cause restoration of the soul (Matthew 8:8).
3. By seeking forgiveness (Micah 7:18-20), anyone can begin a new life and break with the past. Through trust in God and obedience to Christ, we can break addictions, lessen guilt, heal memories, and restore broken relationships.

**IV. From Danger To Safety (vv. 23-31)**

A. Their condition (vv. 23-27).

1. "They stagger like drunken men." Driven to and fro, tossed with tempest, they suffer from mental bewilderment. They are at their "wit's end."
2. "Their soul is melted." They are at the point of utter despair. All courage and hope are gone (Jonah 1:4-7).

B. Their petition (28a).

1. "They cried unto the Lord." It takes a lot for some to stagger to the Lord.
2. "Trouble" is also translated in the KJV as "enemy," "adversary," "foe," "distress," and "affliction." This is a wide scope of help from God.

C. Their salvation (28b-31).

1. "He bringeth them out" as He brought Israel out of Egypt when they were at their "wit's end" (Exodus 1:8-22). "He maketh the storm a calm" when He comes aboard the troubled soul (Isaiah 54:11-14). "He bringeth them into their desired haven." Who He brings out, He desires to bring in (Colossians 1:13).
2. For the last time, the psalmist encourages the reader to "praise the Lord for His goodness," a task that Christians continue to do today (Hebrews 13:15).

**Conclusion.** This psalm's conclusion (vv. 32-41) transforms the hymn of thanksgiving to a wisdom psalm. The righteous will be "wise" by studying "the lovingkindness of the Lord" in the affairs of humankind. What has God done for you? Have you received His saving offer? Can you show the deliverance of God to others?