

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 105 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you will see this evening, both Psalms 105 and 106 are Psalms that recount the history of the children of Israel. You will also notice that they are different in many ways. What I mean by that is Psalm 105 recounts the faithfulness of God to His people. This Psalm shows the goodness of God, the grace of God. In contrast, Psalm 106 shows the faithlessness of the people. It shows how stubborn and rebellious they were. So as we go through these Psalms tonight keep that in mind, the faithfulness of God and the unfaithfulness of man! There are applications for us in these Psalms also, as we will see. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 105 starting in verse 1 as we study through God's Word and see here the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises.

**PSALM 105****VERSES 1-6**

1. As you read through this you can't help but see the Psalmist is exploding forth with praise unto God. Yes, it is easy to complain, but what we need to do is to cultivate a thankful heart and share the goodness of God with others. You see, when you fill your mind with the things of God you will not give room for all the garbage that has been stored there over the years, allowing it to come flowing out once again.

Paul made that point in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”**

What you are focused on, what is filling your life will be manifested in what you do. The Psalmist is obviously focused on God and what has filled him inwardly is being manifested outwardly. Look at what he is saying in regards to his worship of God:

Give thanks  
Call  
Make known  
Sing  
Talk  
Glory  
Rejoice  
Seek  
Remember

As you look back at all that God has done and is doing in your life, you can't help but worship Him. If you focus on yourself, then there will be no joy. It is not that we are to ignore what we are going through, but we are to give those things to Him, cast them at His feet because He cares for us. Then that weight is taken off our shoulders and we can stand with hands held high and praise the King of kings and Lord of lords! You see, there is nothing we are trying to carry, thus we can lift our hands up high to Him!

2. Now what we are going to see is that the Psalmist is going to recount the history of the nation of Israel, beginning with Abraham. If you remember, Abraham was an idol worshipping gentile prior to being called out of the Ur of the Chaldeans. And as he crossed over the Euphrates River, he was called a Hebrew, which means, “one who has crossed over.” And this speaks of Abraham separating himself from the world, being a pilgrim, and walking by faith through the land of Canaan, which God was going to give to His people one day. Once again we will be seeing the faithfulness of God to the promises He has made!

#### VERSES 7-12

1. Think about what their history was like. When they came into the land of Canaan from Mesopotamia they were not a nation, just a few people. But God brought forth from Abraham a nation. God’s covenant that He made with them was fulfilled. Now what is interesting today is that many believe that this covenant was broken by Israel when they rejected Christ, and thus, they have forfeited all the promises of God.

Not true. If you look at Genesis chapter 15, when this covenant was made, it was a unilateral covenant. God passed through the animals while Abraham slept. Thus, this covenant was not based upon Abraham’s faithfulness or his descendants, but the faithfulness of God. And if you are still struggling with the idea that Israel forfeited the promises of God when they rejected Jesus, then why would the Psalmist say that this was an **“everlasting covenant”**?

You see, everlasting means just that, it will continue on and it will be fulfilled as Jesus sits on the throne of David and rules and reigns for 1,000 years in Jerusalem, the Kingdom Age! That means that the land belongs to Israel, God promised it to them and what God has promised them will come to pass just as He has said, you can take that to the bank! For almost 2,000 years they were without a homeland and today, ever since 1948 God has brought them back into the land of Israel, they are a nation once again!

2. Now if this is not an everlasting covenant that God gave to Israel, even though He said it was, then we are in trouble. You see, when you look at our salvation, the blood covenant, this too is called an everlasting covenant. It is based on the promises and the faithfulness of God and not our own faithfulness. In Hebrews 13:20 we read, “**Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.**” If it was based upon our faithfulness, it could not be an everlasting covenant, but because it is based upon God’s faithfulness, which never ends, it is an everlasting covenant! Like the children of Israel, we should worship the Lord; praise Him for all He has done, is doing and will do in our lives. God is faithful, we can rest in that!

#### VERSES 13-15

1. What we see here is that God was protecting His people. Yes they went from one nation to another, but God was there, He was with them and His hand of protection was upon them.

2. And I truly believe that is true of us. We are not Israel, never have been and never will be, but we are God's people. He is watching over us, guiding us and protecting us as we journey through this life. That is another reason we should be praising Him, for His great protection in our lives. I think there are many things that happen to us that we are unaware of what God is doing, in how He is protecting us. But I also think many times we miss what God is doing because we are not looking and thus, we don't praise Him because we have not seen His hand of protection upon our lives. We are on a journey in this life and the wonderful thing is that God is watching over us!

#### VERSES 16-22

1. Now you may find this confusing when we just talked about God's faithfulness in protecting His people. That He would not allow their enemies to do them wrong but it looks like He did Joseph wrong and He brought about a famine in the land that hurt His people. So how can this be?

When you read the story of Joseph you see that God did use this whole story to preserve His people, to save them! You remember the story. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery because they were jealous of him. He was bought as a slave in Egypt by Potiphar. And he was doing great as a slave, in charge of all of Potiphar's house and then Potiphar's wife tried to take advantage of him, have sex with him and he fled out of the house. When Potiphar found out what had happened, his wife said that Joseph tried to rape her but I don't think he believed his wife. But you could not let a slave go free when these charges were against him, so he has Joseph placed in prison.

While in prison two of Pharaoh's servants; the butler who was in charge of Pharaoh's wine and the baker who was in charge of Pharaoh's food were also placed in that prison with Joseph. You see, there was a plot to kill Pharaoh and he was not sure which one so both were thrown into prison until he could figure it out. While in prison both of these men had dreams that troubled them, they didn't know what they meant.

Joseph, upon hearing this interprets the dream for the butler and it is good, he will be released in three days. All Joseph's asks is that he would remember him before Pharaoh so he could be released. When the baker heard what Joseph had done he also wanted to know what his dream meant and it was not good. Within three days he was going to be put to death for his plot to kill Pharaoh. And that is exactly what transpired.

And the butler, once released, forgets about what Joseph asked of him for 2 full years and then he remembers Joseph when Pharaoh has a dream that is troubling him. And Pharaoh calls upon Joseph to come and interpret the dream he had and he does. And Joseph tells Pharaoh that his dreams speak of seven years of great harvest followed by seven years of great famine. And Pharaoh elevates Joseph to second in command over all of Egypt, just under Pharaoh himself. And he is overseeing the food supply! For 13 years Joseph waited till God raised him up and made him second in command over all of Egypt.

And you still may be thinking that God wasn't taking care of Joseph but He was. You see, all the evil that was against Joseph God turned it around for good, to preserve His people during this time of famine. Jacob, Joseph's father and the rest of their family will come down to Egypt during this great famine and it is out of all this that we see a nation born down in Egypt, the nation of Israel.

2. Folks, we may look at a situation we are in now, the difficulties we face and wonder what God is doing, how unfair it is but we don't see the big picture, but God does! We may think that God is not watching over us, protecting us, but He is. We need to be able to rest in Him and as you do you will rest in His peace!

Also, during those times God is growing us, teaching us so that when it's time, He has prepared not only the work for us, but us for the work. That is what He did in the life of Joseph. These were not wasted years as some would think. For Joseph it will be 13 years of being a slave and being in prison before he is elevated to second in command over all of Egypt, behind only Pharaoh! He went from the pit to the pinnacle! As one person said in regards to the story of the butler and the baker, "Here Joseph is wronged again. He thought that butler's kindness might mean his release from prison, but it was not to be. God had another purpose. All men God uses greatly, He first prepares greatly. Few are willing to endure the greatness of God's preparation. God orders both our *steps* and *stops*." May we not forget that just as Joseph didn't! That is why even in the unfair situation he was in; he could serve the Lord faithfully. How about you?

VERSES 23-25

1. As I have said, God used this famine to bring the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons to Egypt. Seventy people went down to Egypt and settled in the choicest land, the land of Goshen. And for some 30 years they had it good with Pharaoh, until he died and the succeeding Pharaoh's who did not know Joseph came on the scene and they oppressed the children of Israel, made them slaves!

And again you may wonder how God is protecting His people when they are being oppressed? God is working and He is preparing the people to leave Egypt and go into the land of promise, the land of Canaan! They were afflicted for 400 years but those seventy people that came down to Egypt would leave with 2 to 3 million, a nation was born. God has a plan and all that we go through, He is aware. He will see us through as difficult as things may seem!



2. It is easy to lose sight of what God is doing in our lives at times, but maybe this story will help put things into perspective for you. We are told,

The early American Indians had a unique practice of training young braves. On the night of a boy's thirteenth birthday, after learning hunting, scouting, and fishing skills, he was put to one final test. He was placed in a dense forest to spend the entire night alone. Until then, he had never been away from the security of the family and the tribe. But on this night, he was blindfolded and taken several miles away. When he took off the blindfold, he was in the middle of a thick woods and he was terrified! Every time a twig snapped, he visualized a wild animal ready to pounce. After what seemed like an eternity, dawn broke and the first rays of sunlight entered the interior of the forest. Looking around, the boy saw flowers, trees, and the outline of the path. Then, to his utter astonishment, he beheld the figure of a man standing just a few feet away, armed with a bow and arrow. It was his father. He had been there all night long.

- Our Daily Bread

We must keep that in mind. That God is with us in the darkest of times, in the most difficult of times. He is leading us, watching over us, protecting us and through it all He is working in us to test our faith, to get us to look to Him, to trust in Him instead of ourselves! May we learn the lesson!

VERSES 26-36

1. God sent forth a deliverer to set His people free and that man was Moses! Now before I go on let me make this remark about the family of Amram and Jochebed, the father and mother of Moses the deliverer. Their other son was Aaron who was going to be the priest. And then their daughter was Miriam, a prophetess!

Do you think that when these children were born Amram and Jochebed had any idea of what they would do in life? I don't think so and yet they instilled in them the things of God. They saw the work of God in their lives and that was passed on then to their children; Moses, Aaron and Miriam! May we do no less with our children! May they see the hand of God in our lives! May they see that God is real and we just don't talk the talk but we walk the walk! We live what we believe. And who knows what our children, our grandchild will be doing for the kingdom of God!

2. Now Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and called for him to let the children of Israel go. And Pharaoh was wishy-washy you might say. He would say yes and then change his mind and God sent forth plagues to encourage him, but after 9 plagues, nothing. Then the 10<sup>th</sup> plague came, the death of the firstborn in each home and even with the animals. And with the death of Pharaoh's firstborn, his son, he let them go! It didn't have to be that way but because of the hardness of his heart, it took that much before Pharaoh would let them go free.

And even then he went after them, had them cornered by the Red Sea and God stepped in and parted the Red Sea for the 2 to 3 million Jews to pass through on dry land and then, as soon as the Egyptians entered in, He closed the Sea upon them and Pharaoh and all his soldiers drowned! God did protect His people!

VERSES 37-38

1. We are told that the Egyptians were glad when the Jews left; they could not get rid of them fast enough. We see this played out for us in Exodus 12:33-36 where we are told, **“And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, ‘We shall all be dead.’ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”**

Not only did the Egyptians want them to get out of Dodge quickly or Egypt quickly, but the children of Israel asked for some silver, gold, and clothing and they gave it to them! That is amazing when you think about it. These are slaves, they are not warriors and they are leaving and asking for these things and we are told that they plundered the Egyptians of their wealth. God is in control. And I tend to think that all these material possessions that they were given were just their wages that they did not receive for those 400 years they were slaves! God was giving them their back pay you might say!

And yes, I am sure that the Egyptians were excited when they first left. With all the plagues that came upon the Egyptians, including the death of their first born, they were more than happy to get rid of the Jews! But then reality set in. Pharaoh realized that his slaves were leaving and that would be trouble for him. So he did go after them as I have said, but God protected His people and destroyed the Egyptians!

#### VERSES 39-41

1. The Shekinah glory, the presence of God, shielded them from the sun during the day by a cloud and the pillar of fire at night kept them warm during the cold nights. God provided for them throughout their journey with both food and water, and even their clothes did not wear out. In Deuteronomy 29:5 we read, “**And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.**”

2. Isn't that exactly what God said that He would do, protect His people, fulfill His promise to them? Absolutely and we see that in this Psalm. Remember what we have read in Psalm 105:8-12, "**He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,' When they were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.**" God is fulfilling that promise that He has made and it will be fulfilled as I have said when Jesus sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem! And we will see the Psalmist elaborate on this promise as he concludes this Psalm.

#### VERSES 42-45

1. We see the faithfulness of God, bringing His people into the land that He promised them. Now what about you? You see, God is not only speaking to the children of Israel here. God is actively involved in your life. Do you believe that? Have you seen that? I hope you have and if you haven't you need to start looking because He is working in you and through you for His glory! And here is the thing. When you look and see how God is faithful, that He is working in your life, orchestrating it to make beautiful music you might say, then you will be able to say as the Psalmist did, "**Praise the LORD!**"

And here is the thing. God has claimed us for His people, we have been purchased by the blood of Christ and thus, may we live as the Psalmist said as he concluded, "**That they might observe His statutes And keep His laws.**" May we follow Him all the days of our lives, walk in His statutes and keep His laws with praise on our lips!

**PSALM 106**

As we have just seen in Psalm 105, the faithfulness of God to His people. But here in Psalm 106 we see a different picture, not of God but of His people. Yes, we will still be looking at the history of the nation of Israel, only this time we will be looking at the unfaithfulness or faithlessness of God's people instead of the faithfulness of God. And as you will see and already know, it truly is a different picture than what we just saw.

Now we are not sure exactly when this Psalm was written or who wrote it, but as you look at verses 3, 4 and 5 they seem to give us some insight into when it was written. From these verses it seems that this Psalm was written by a captive in Babylon. That is interesting because Psalm 105 recounts God delivering them from their bondage in Egypt and here, in Psalm 106 it is like the Psalmist is saying, "Lord, you delivered my people from their bondage in Egypt, don't forget about us who in captivity in Babylon. We too want to see Your goodness, Your faithfulness and be able to rejoice in what You have done!" Keep that in mind as we read through this Psalm.

**VERSES 1-5**

1. What a great place to start once again, with praise unto God. Make no mistake about it; we can not speak enough of the goodness of God. Let me share with you two different stories that shed a different light regarding the goodness of God. And what I mean by that is what the goodness of God really is. This may be shocking to some of you, but it is the correct perspective. We are told,

One of God's faithful missionaries, Allen Gardiner, experienced many physical difficulties and hardships throughout his service to the Savior. Despite his troubles, he said, "While God gives me strength, failure will not daunt me." In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on Picton Island at the southern tip of South America. When his body was found, his diary lay nearby. It bore the record of hunger, thirst, wounds, and loneliness. The last entry in his little book showed the struggle of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, "I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God."

- Allen Gardiner

We can let things get in the way of the goodness of God. We miss many times what He is doing and truly how good He really is. In fact, many times we associate our worldly comfort with the goodness of God in our life and I think we miss the point. It isn't that God doesn't take care of us that way but then when things don't go like we think they should, is He not good? Let me show you another example and you will see what I mean. This is from Corrie Ten Boom and we are told,

Often I have heard people say, "How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic, and look at the lovely weather!" Yes, God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when He allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp.

I remember one occasion when I was very discouraged there. Everything around us was dark, and there was darkness in my heart. I remember telling Betsie that I thought God had forgotten us. “No, Corrie,” said Betsie, “He has not forgotten us. Remember His Word: ‘For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.’” Corrie concludes, “There is an ocean of God’s love available - there is plenty for everyone. May God grant you never to doubt that victorious love - whatever the circumstances.”

- Corrie Ten Boom

That is the challenge to us. May we see the goodness of God in our lives in spite of the things we may be facing right now! May we be able to say as the Psalmist did, **“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”**

2. And notice that there are blessings found as we are obedient to God’s Word, as we follow after Him! God’s Word is not there to hurt us but to protect us, to keep us from harm if we would only listen and obey!



3. Like I have said, this could have been written during the Babylonian captivity and seeing the results first hand of what happens when a people turn from God. It is an object lesson when you don't follow God's Word, you end up in captivity! And the Psalmist is calling for God not to forget them, don't leave them in this captivity! And we can do the same when we find ourselves in captivity. We can cry out to God to deliver us as the Psalmist was doing!

#### VERSES 6-12

1. The Psalmist is saying here that their own actions were no different than the actions of their ancestors. You see, God brought them out of Egypt and into a trap. They ended up in a valley with two mountains on either side, Pi Hahiroth and Baal Zephon. In front of them was the Red Sea and coming up behind them was the Egyptian army who wanted their slaves back. They couldn't run, they couldn't scatter, all they could do is complain. And that is exactly what they did. They complained that they were going to die. That is not the reason that God brought them out of Egypt, to die in the wilderness. He brought them out of Egypt so they may enter the Promise Land! But they were walking by sight and not by faith, and if they could have run, they would have missed the salvation that God was going to bring.

And in spite of their faithlessness, God was faithful and He opened up the Red Sea allowing the children of Israel to cross through. Then, as the Egyptian army came through, the Red Sea closed up and drowned them all.

2. Now as you read through this there are three things that they did that brought them to this place of unbelief. First of all there was their *ingratitude*. They did not appreciate all that God had done for them in Egypt in bringing them out of this captivity. They were not thankful for what God had done! And this heart of being unthankful led to their *forgetfulness*. In other words they forgot all of God's grace and mercy He has shown them. It faded from their minds! And thus, all this ended up in *rebellion* against God! What I mean by that is that when they came to the Red Sea they began to complain against God. They were saying that God led them to this place to die in the wilderness. That they would have been better off staying in Egypt!

Now here is the wonderful thing about God. Instead of destroying them He still loved them. Their sin did not halt God's love for them! And He ended up delivering them from the Egyptians as He led them through the Red Sea and destroyed the Egyptians with the Red Sea! The end result was praise unto God!

3. Now hear me out on this one. Signs and wonders are exciting, but if there is no depth of relationship, they will be meaningless. They were excited in what they saw, signs and wonders, but . . .

VERSES 13-15

1. Because of new situations they found themselves in, they forgot all that God had done.

How can that be? Because there was no deep relationship with God, their roots were not sunk deep into Him and thus, as the storms came, they were being swept away. They lost the perspective of God. Now before we are too harsh on them, we do the same thing.

Think about how often we experience the goodness of God in our lives and yet how easily and quickly we forget.

2. And the Psalmist drives this point home for us as he speaks of lusts. And lust is something that can never be satisfied. In fact, one person said that lust is like the craving for salt for a man dying of thirst. It is foolish, it is not beneficial and in the end it will destroy you.

The example here has to do with the bread that God provided for them in the desert. You see, God gave them angel's food to eat. Imagine that, angel's food. What did they call it? They called it Manna, "what is it?"

And they got tired of the bread from heaven and lusted after other things. Thus, God gave them the desire of their hearts, dead meat, instead of the bread from heaven, and many died in the plague that God brought upon them and were buried in the graves of lusts, Kibroth Hattaavah. They got their carnal lusts, but in doing so God sent them leanness to their soul!

3. What a lesson for us. God has sent us bread from heaven, Jesus. In fact, in John chapter 6 Jesus said, “**. . . ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. . . . I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’**”

John 6:35, 48-51.

You see, true satisfaction comes as we feed on Jesus, feed on His Word, make Him part of our lives. If we are not satisfied with the bread from heaven, He will give to us what we are lusting for, those dead things, those things that can’t bring forth life, that truly can’t satisfy, but it will cause you to be spiritual dry, barren, there will be leanness to your soul!

4. And once again we see a progression here. They had a *short memory*. In other words, they forgot all the miracles that God had done for them. That brought them to the place where they were no longer seeking His will but they were *self-seeking*. They did not want to wait for God to guide them, direct them, they wanted to do what they wanted to do and they wanted to do it when they felt like it. Not a good place to be. That brought them to the place of *lust*, craving for things that will not help them but it will hurt them. And lastly, we see *their provocation*, that they tested God!

And this time God did give them what they wanted and like I said, it was not for their good. Matthew Henry put it like this in regards to this kind of behavior, “What is asked in passion is often given in wrath.”

May we remember what God has done in our life! May we seek after His will instead of our own will! May we not lust after things but have a hunger and thirst for righteousness. And may we not test God but may we allow God to test our faith so that we may grow in Him and not allow the Devil to tempt us to sin! Hard lessons but ones we do need to learn!

#### VERSES 16-18

1. First of all Moses did not even want this role, but God placed him in it. And then Korah and the others rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron, they felt that Moses took this on himself and he did not, God put him in his position! So God dealt with those in rebellion, and the families of Dathan, Korah and Abiram were swallowed up by the earth. And fire also came down and consumed 250 men who were offering incense and were part of this rebellion. (Numbers 16). ***They were rejecting the leadership that God established!***

2. Now what is the lesson we can learn from this. If you want to end up in the pit, then just rebel against those who are in authority over you! That means in the marriage relationship, in the family relationship, in the workplace, in the church. God has placed people in certain positions and it doesn't mean you have to agree with them on everything, but you have to respect the role that God has given to them. Also, you are not to put down someone's character or lust, covet their position!

### VERSES 19-23

1. Picture what was taking place here. Moses is up on Mount Sinai getting the Law from God, the one the people said that they would keep. While he is getting the Law from God the people were already breaking it. They had made a golden calf and were using this to worship God by. And God was not happy with their actions and if it were not for the intercession of Moses, they all would have been destroyed. But we do see 3,000 die as a result of this. Now I do believe that God had given to Moses the heart of intercession for his people but we also must understand how God feels about idolatry. It is an abomination before Him. It doesn't matter what you use to worship the true and living God, He will not accept any form of idols. That means no statues or anything like that will He accept. We worship Him in Spirit and in truth! ***So the focus in this section is their idolatry!*** (Exodus 32).

VERSES 24-27

1. Remember the story of the children of Israel sending spies into the land of Canaan, the Promise Land to search it out, see what it was like, what the enemy was like. The 12 spies returned back and 10 of those spies reported to the children of Israel, “The land is great, it is awesome, but there is this issue of giants in the land.” Only Joshua and Caleb, 2 of the 12 spies said that “This land is great and God has given it to us, let’s enter in!” But the 10 spies discouraged the people. They did not believe the promises of God, and instead feared the people of the land. They murmured and complained against God.

Make no mistake about it; God hears our murmuring and complaining. And when you really think about it, our murmuring and complaining is against Him and His promises to us! For the children of Israel, that generation 20 years old and up, who refused to walk by faith and enter the land of Canaan, died in the wilderness, except for Joshua and Caleb. Imagine, only two of the original 2 to 3 million people who left Egypt entered into the Promise Land, the rest died in the wilderness because of their unbelief!

***Thus, this section deals with their faithlessness at Kadesh Barnea on the boarder of the Promise Land!***

VERSES 28-31

1. In these verses we see a reference to the account in Numbers chapters 22 through 25. Balak the King of Moab hired Balaam to curse the people of God, but he realized that was impossible. So Balaam tried another tactic. He understood that God was not going to curse His people so instead he told Balak what to do so the children of Israel can bring a curse upon themselves! So he got Balak to have the people fall into sin by sending his women down into the camp. These women would teach the children of Israel about their false worship, many of these practices involved sexual sins and thus, they fed into the flesh. And because of this God would judge them for their unfaithfulness to Him.

And one of the children of Israel parades by Moses, Phinehas and others, with his Midianite girlfriend, going into his tent to have sexual relations. And Phinehas had enough, and he goes and grabs his javelin and went into their tent and thrust them both through, killing them. Because of his actions, the plague that God had sent into the camp was stopped, but 24,000 people died because of their sin. ***And here we see their sinful worship of Baal of Peor or the worship of Baal!***

VERSES 32-33

1. Here we see the story from Numbers 20:2-13. And as you may remember, even at the end of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness because of their sin, they were still complaining about the water. God had provided for them all those years and yet they still did not believe and when things got tough, when things looked dry, they complained that they had no water and were going to die.



Now keep in mind that Moses has been with them these 40 years and Moses, instead of speaking to the rock as God had instructed him to, struck the rock. And because he didn't represent God correctly, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. 40 years of faithful service, one blemish, and this was an example of what can happen when we disobey God. Moses was a hero to the Jews, but they saw the reality of what happens when we do not obey God's Word. ***And what we see here in these verses is the sin of Moses!***

#### VERSES 34-39

1. We now move out of the wilderness and into the Promise Land and you would think that this new environment, seeing the hand of God bring them into this land, would change their behavior, but it did not. They were told by God to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan, but instead, they left some remaining in the land, and they were a thorn to Israel.

What ended up happening is that they taught them to worship their gods, and even to sacrifice their children to the god Molech, the god of pleasure and prosperity. Instead of bringing these pagan nations to the true and living God the children of Israel were brought down to their level and they left the God who had brought them into this land in the first place!

And look at these practices. They are filled with death and destruction. There is death to the children as they are sacrificed to the god Molech, placed in his burning hot outstretched arms! And the family life was a mess because of all the sexual perversion that entered the land. There was lawlessness because there was no longer a Law Giver; He was taken out of the picture!

Now before we are too hard on the children of Israel we need to take a good look at our own nation. We abort over 3,000 babies; murder them every day in America and mostly for pleasure and convince. They are in our way. What do you think they were doing with all these unwanted children that were born out of sexual sin back then? Offering them to the god Molech, the god of pleasure! Don't we see families destroyed because of sexual sin today? Of course we do! And lawlessness is rampant because we have rejected the true Law Giver, God!

Thus, as you look at these verses there are a few things that jump out. ***They failed to eliminate the pagan inhabitants. They then were marrying these heathens that lead to idolatry. And that idolatry leads to human sacrifice!*** In other words, death and destruction in the land because they turned from God!

VERSES 40-43

1. This can be speaking of the time of the Judges on into the period of time when the Northern Kingdom of Israel went into captivity, which was in 721 B. C. by the hands of the Assyrians. For the Southern Kingdom of Judah, they went into captivity in 606 B. C., which was the first deportation by the hands of the Babylonians with the final deportation taking place in 586 B. C. God kept turning His people over to their enemies in that they might return to Him until He finally let them be carried away into captivity!

God's desire is that we would turn to Him but He will let us go and run until we come to the end of ourselves and we return to Him! God loves us too much to leave us where we are at. If He did not love us He would do nothing, but His actions shows His love!

VERSES 44-46

1. As you read over and over again of their unfaithfulness to God you would think that God would just give up on them, but He does not give up. We see here the Psalmist speak of God's mercy. You see, as they cried out to Him, He forgave them. That is the love, the mercy, the grace, the compassion, the longsuffering and-so-on of our God. Make no mistake about it; God does not give up on us. We may give up on ourselves, but God doesn't and that should encourage you. Remember what Paul said in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”** We should have that confidence, God does not give up and I am so thankful for that. May we not let the enemy discourage us but keep our eyes on the Lord and trust in His promises to us!

2. Now verses 45 and 46 are interesting because the Psalmist is saying that God has put into the hearts of their enemies pity so that they would not be treated too harshly. We may disagree with that statement, but it is 100% true. God gives to us just what we need to grow in Him or return to Him, no more and no less!

#### VERSE 47

1. With all their unfaithfulness you would think that the Psalmist would just give up, but he doesn't. He cries out to God because He knows that God is gracious and merciful. Thus, He cries out, "Bring us back home from our captivity in Babylon so we can praise you once again." That is his prayer and it is a good one! Take us out of this captivity and let us live in the light of your love!

VERSE 48

1. This ending, this doxology of praise, brings us to the end of book four of the Psalms. And this Psalm that opened up with praise unto God closes that way. In between we see the unfaithfulness of God's people but we also see the faithfulness of God! Powerful lessons and that is Paul's point in I Corinthians 10:11-13, "**Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**" May we take heed and learn these lessons, apply them to our lives so that we will not fall!