

## **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS (PSALM 107)**

**[Psalm 107:1-3 (Thanks to the Lord for His Mercy and Redemption)]**

Oh, **give thanks to the Lord**, for He is good! For **His mercy endures forever**. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so**, whom He has **redeemed** from the hand of the enemy, and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

[This Psalm is not attributed to any particular author and is post-exilic in speaking of God's people returning. It is for us also, as it clearly is prophetic as well in speaking of, by God's great mercy, His redemption of people from all nations. As now, according to the "New Covenant" that we have with God, the mystery of God's plan of redemption for mankind has been revealed to us as being through Christ Jesus. We have the Apostle Paul telling us from **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption [as we put on, so to speak, the Lord Jesus], and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. [The law of God reveals our sin against God and sin unabated (undiminished) then leads to death.] But **thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**. Therefore, my beloved brethren [brothers and sisters in Christ], be steadfast (faithful), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain **in the Lord**."] ]

**[Psalm 107:4-9 (He Satisfies the Longing Soul)]** They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And He led them forth by **THE RIGHT WAY**, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place [ah, we're marching to Zion!]. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For **He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness**.

[That "city for a dwelling place" is spoken of in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter that gives numerous examples of those from the Old Testament times living by faith. We read then, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were

**strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** For those who say such things declare plainly that they **seek a homeland.** And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a **heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." (**Hebrews 11:13-16**)

For **He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.** Once again, correlating that with Christ Jesus, in **Matthew 5:1-12,** we read "And [Jesus] seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain [to give His "Sermon on the Mount"], and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad,** for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." "He [Christ Jesus] **satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**" Remember the encounter that the Samaritan woman had with Jesus at the well? I won't read the whole story from **John 4** but to bring out a point that agrees with what we've already read, "Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (**John 4:13-14**) Then after some back and forth dialogue Jesus stated, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

That word "worship" is the Greek "proskuneo". It links the having the "fear of the Lord" with the love of God. Pros, "towards" and kyneo, "to kiss".<sup>1</sup> To be like the kissing of a king's hand or even as a dog licks the master's hand. It then has the implication of sincere reverence towards God. Of course that is not just on occasion when we feel like it but in all that we say and do. Yes, we all "miss the mark" on that but "Oh, **give thanks to the Lord,** for He is good! For **His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,** whom He has redeemed" "He [Christ Jesus] **satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**" So then, in our inadequacies

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1 <https://biblehub.com/greek/4352.htm>

and because of who HE IS, we keep looking to Him to satisfy our longing soul and to fill our hungry soul with His goodness! And really, as the Apostle Paul said in Philippians, "that you may be **sincere and without offense** till the day of Christ, being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, to the **glory and praise of God.**" (**Philippians 1:2-11**) Fruits of Righteousness=Fruit of the Spirit, **Galatians 5:22-23**. It is though ultimately what is in one's heart that matters. It is the difference between transgression as the act of trespassing in a place that is contrary to the will of God and iniquity being what resides in one's heart that is a moral distortion of the will of God.

Once again, we are reminded in this Psalm and throughout God's Word that we are just passing through in this lifetime. This is not our eternal resting place. As the Apostle Peter pleads with us and assures us, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles [other people in your community], that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works **which they observe**, glorify God in the day of visitation." (**1 Peter 2:11-12**) This is, so to speak, God's testing ground, as He is building His eternal kingdom through Christ Jesus, looking for those who want His Wisdom, His Righteousness, His Sanctification and His Redemption. All of which we have through Christ Jesus, and "as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." (**1Cor.1:30-31**)]

**[Psalm 107:10-22 (Thanks to the Lord for His Deliverance)]** Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons—because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High, therefore He brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then **they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses**. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for **His goodness**, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He has broken the gates of bronze, and cut the bars of iron in two. Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted. Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. **He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions**. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

[God indeed has sent His Word! "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**) "He was in the

world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:10-13**) That is, we must be as Jesus said "born again", "born of the Spirit". (**John 3**) So then, for us all who have believed on Jesus being the Christ, the Messiah, God's perfect sacrifice for our sins against Him, we believe Jesus was crucified on a cross, taking our sins with Him, He died and was buried (placed in a tomb), and rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death, sin and evil, therefore making a way for us too (THE RIGHT WAY as He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life"-**John 14:6**) to overcome death, sin, and evil. Then we are given the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ who then works in us "both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (**Philippians 2:13**) The Apostle Peter then speaks of us as saying, "you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." (**1 Peter 2:9-10**) "He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." The Apostle Peter continued by saying, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness [as Christ Jesus is our Righteousness!]-by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (**1 Peter 2:21-25**) Therefore, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men [as well as the rest of the fullness of the fruit of the Spirit]. The Lord is at hand [is near]. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication [petition], with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Phil. 2:4-7**)

**[Psalm 107:23-43 (The Lovingkindness of the Lord)]** Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, they see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea. They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He

calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven. [Remind you of Peter when Jesus was walking on the water, and Peter wanted to join Him. Jesus said "come". Peter began walking on the water too, but then became afraid of the winds and stormy sea and began to fall. Did Peter pass or fail that test? I'd say he passed, as he cried out to Jesus to save him!-Matt.14] **Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!** Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders. He turns rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings. There He makes the hungry dwell, that they may establish a city for a dwelling place, and sow fields and plant vineyards, that they may yield a fruitful harvest. He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; and He does not let their cattle decrease. When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow, He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way; yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, and makes their families like a flock. The righteous see it and rejoice, and all iniquity stops its mouth. Whoever is wise will observe these things, and **they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.**

[The Apostle John stated plainly that God IS Love (1 John 4:7-8) Then, concerning the love of God, he tells us, "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." (1 John 4:17-21) Jesus took that a step further by saying, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:43-48) That can only happen as we look to Jesus as God IS love, as we abide in Him, as we go to Him "For **He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**" Christ alone!

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord **for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!**" And that "they [we] will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord"!] ]