

Oct 17, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Whenever I feel abandoned and alone, I cling to the hope You've given me through Christ's resurrection, that I will be delivered to eternal joy one day

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

What will help you to remember and cling to God's sure and certain hope of deliverance? How has trusting in God sustained you in a difficult challenge?

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning
(Ps 22:1 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 15, 2019)

Series: Celebrating God

UNIT 2: Called to Praise God

NEXT WEEK

**Praise God for
His Presence
(Psalm 84:1-12)**

Praise God for Past Deliverance Psalm 107:1-9, 39-43

Lesson Background and Introduction

The saving actions attributed to God in Psalm 107 should be considered in light of the covenant God established with the nation of Israel. That covenant promised what he would do in response both to the people's obedience and disobedience. God's consistently loving deeds and provision of care for those who faithfully honor and serve him must not be overlooked. Jesus spoke of blessings provided for those who seek first "[God's] kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). That must be tempered, however, by the awareness that even in times when such provisions are lacking, God's presence and grace have not been denied to the faithful. This too is consistently taught in Scripture (examples: 2 Corinthians 9:10-11; 12:7-10; Philippians 4:15-19). God can and does still bring to pass the reversals found within this psalm, such as providing relief for the hungry (Psalm 107:9) and delivering the poor from their poverty (107:41). These are times to celebrate! But gratitude to God is always meant to be part of our spiritual demeanor (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is not to hinge on whether material needs (or wants!) are supplied. The physical side of life does indeed matter, but it is not the only dimension of reality. Paul expressed the tension clearly: "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16; compare Philippians 2:7-11). For Christians, there is always the most important reason for giving thanks: our redemption in Jesus (Colossians 1:12-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5). Hope in our future resurrection gives us reason both to celebrate the work Jesus did on the cross and the work the Spirit continues to do in our lives, preparing us for an eternity of praise to God.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

A Psalm of Thanksgiving - An unknown author possibly wrote Psalm 107 after Judah's captivity in Babylon. Psalm 107 records their release and the people's thanksgiving pouring forth. God rescued and allowed the restoration of His congregation and the city of Jerusalem. The first plea in the psalm is for the readers to express gratitude for His loving kindness. God's mercy means He shows abundant generosity unnecessarily. The heavenly Father passionately chose to involve Himself in human affairs. He is under no obligation. It displays His kindness and love—both without an end.

Our Redeemer - The psalmist called the people to identify themselves as redeemed. If any person had been sold as a slave, whether taken captive or in a difficult situation, a kinsman rescued that person. A blood relative possessed the right to purchase the one in bondage. The redeemer then placed the individual back into the family with restored rights and privileges. Several times the Bible outlines an occasion in which God is our kinsman redeemer. He snatches His precious possessions from the enemy's hands.

God's Discipline - Judah ended up in captivity in Babylon because of the people's disobedience. They insisted on rebelling against the Lord after He repeatedly sent warnings through His prophets. The Lord disciplined His children using evil, idol-loving Babylon to take them into captivity. He took those who were in line to be royalty and leaders in Judah and placed them in Babylon, where they became slaves. After 70 years, God empowered another pagan government, the Persians, to overtake the Babylonians. The Persians sent the exiles back to their native countries. God opened the door for the Jews to return to Jerusalem. God's disciplinary measures are intended to cleanse, restore, and return His people exclusively back to Him, never to destroy a person. Studying these pictures of God's mercy to an undeserving people should make our hearts overflow with gratitude.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Deliverance through God's Redemption (Ps 107:1-5)

Redemption because of love (1)

Love that prompted God to provide Jesus as our sacrifice (John 3:16)

Love that is incomparably rich (Edh 2:6-7)

Love that God expressed in mercy (1 Tim 1:15-16)

Love that is defined as Jesus laying down His life for us (1 John 3:16)

Love that is everlasting (Jeer 31:3)

Redemption from enemies (2)

From enemies because of their fear (Josh 2:8-11)

From enemies because they know that God is Lord (Isa 37:20)

From enemies because of God's power (Isa 37:33-37)

From enemies because they must be silent before God (Hob 2:20)

From enemies because of God's rebuke (Ps 9:5-7)

Redemption through gathering (3-4)

God gathers those who are with Him (Matt 12:30)

God gathers through His angels (Matt 24:31)

God gathers like a winnowing fork (Luke 3:16-18)

God gathers multiple flock (John 10:16)

God gathers to receive thanks, praise and worship (Ps 106:47)

Redemption through provisions (5)

Provisions through God using others (2 Cur 8:14)

Provisions through God's supplying directly (2 Cur 9:10)

Provisions of faith (1 Theses 3:10)

Provisions that should evoke thanksgiving to God (2 Cur 9:12)

Provisions through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

Deliverance through God's Goodness (Ps 107:6-9)

Goodness through answered prayer (6)

Answered prayers because God's eyes are on the righteous (Ps 34:15)

Answered prayers because God promises to answer even before speaking (Isa 65:24)

Answered prayers because God promises to fulfill answers and seeking (Matt 7:7-8)

Answered prayers because of obedience (1 John 3:21-22)

Goodness through guidance (7)

Guidance through having the Mind of Christ (1 Cur 2:12-16)

Guidance that is part of God's plan for our life (Jeer 29:11)

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance that is not under the law (Gal 5:18)

Guidance that represents we are children of God (Rom 8:14)

Goodness through wonderful deeds (8-9)

Through His deeds because they are great (Ps 92:5)

Through His deeds because they are wonderful (Ps 26:7)

Through His deeds because they are awesome (Ps 66:3)

Through His majestic deeds (Ps 111:3)

Deliverance through God's Love (Ps 107:39-43)

Love through humbling the mighty (39-40)

Humbles because God opposed the proud (James 4:6-7)

Humbles man until he confesses God's superiority (Dan 4:34-35)

Humbles through a repentant heart (2 Chrono 7:14)

Humbles because it is a requirement for being with Him (Isa 57:15)

Humbles because it shows repentance of sin (Bezek 16:63)

Love through honoring the poor and needy (41)

Honoring through lifting them up (1 Sam 2:8)

Honoring through providing safety (Job 5:11)

Honoring through promises of a better future (Job 8:7)

Honoring through satisfying their needs (Ps 68:6)

Honoring through being their refuge (Isa 25:4)

Love through encouraging the wise (42-43)

Encourages because the wise know the proper time and procedure (Eccl 8:5)

Encourages because the wise accept commands from God (Prove 10:8)

Encourages because the wise adhere to instruction (Prove 13:1)

Encourages because the wise listen to advice and instruction (Prove 19:20)

Encourages because the wise continues to do God's Word (Matt 24:45-46)