

Psalm 105 - "Marvel at the Amazing & Wonderful Works of God on Behalf of His People!"

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- The Bible is profoundly God-centered. It's a fact no person can deny.
 - God initiates, God decrees, God acts, God preserves, God providentially works, God protects, God redeems, God receives Glory!

You've heard this: **What is history: but really the account of "*His-Story*"?**

- Or, as Oliver Cromwell once put it: "**What are all histories but God manifesting Himself?**" (in Lawson, 160).
God eternally exists, God created, God elected, God multiplies, God scatters, God leads, God guides, God tests, God grows, God preserves, God protects -- God's power & His story!

Background to Ps 105

- Consider **Ps 104: the Creation Psalm**. If *Ps 104* commented on **Genesis 1**, then **Ps 105** comments on **the rest of the Torah (Gen–Deut)**.
- Not only is this a historical psalm but it's a **thanksgiving psalm**.
 - Written by David (entrusted to Asaph) on the occasion when the ARK was carried to Jerusalem (1 Chron 16:8-36).
**in start of something new, remember the past!

If we could look far far into outer space & see ONE individual star, we'd be amazed (**to be sure!**), **but imagine if we zoomed out** & saw that ONE star in the context of the entire GALAXY that it's in (**wow!**) --- behold the power, the big picture, the creativity, the ordaining decree & care of God! **That's what Ps 105 does as a 'historical psalm'.**

Why study history? To learn the following...

about **God**,
about **man**,
about **sin**,
about **providence**,
about **redemption**.

The whole psalm calls you to WORSHIP God; then it tells you all the mighty wonders God has done & proves WHY you should worship Him!

Note v.43b - God acts & rejoices in so doing!! Joy of God!

THESIS — We will marvel at the amazing & wonderful works of God in **3 scenes to the great divine drama of Psalm 105** -- it is God putting Himself on display!

I want you to leave...

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee!

How great Thou art; How great Thou art!

I. HEAR THE CALL TO WORSHIP! (vv. 1-7)

This call to worship is like an appetizer before the full course!

Like a beautiful jewel turned this way and that way in the sunbeam, the worship of God displays some of its many facets here with these 11 commands! (Kidner, 407).

This is like a rapid-fire round of perpetual, brief, short commands!

A. In these verses, there are 11 imperatives (commands)

B. Let these all stimulate us to erupt in volcanoes of praise!!

1. give thanks!
2. call upon His name! [not prayer; verbal speaking of Him!]
3. Make known His deeds!
4. Sing to Him!
5. Sing praises to Him!
6. Speak of all His wonders!
7. Glory in His holy name!
8. Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad!
9. Seek the Lord & His strength!
10. Seek His face continually
11. Remember His wonders & His marvels & the judgments from His mouth!!

C. going back to v1. -- what an appropriate way to begin the psalm!

1. **Richard Baxter** (1615-1692) was a pastor who preached faithfully in Kidderminster, England. He catechized perpetually, and shepherded caringly, but on the big, large, oak **pulpit** from which he preached he had these words inscribed:
2. "Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people" (in Boice, 846).

II. HEED THE DEEDS OF GOD! (vv. 8-45)

These deeds of God trace the history of Israel (OT)

Note how many times "He" (third masculine singular אֱלֹהִים)—referring to God—occurs in the psalm!

This huge section of Ps 105 gives us OT history *from God's sovereign perspective in heaven* in a nutshell. A summary from God!

A. The Covenant w/ Abraham (vv. 8-15) [God is **faithful]**

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-20; 17:1-8, 19. Gen 12-35 at large)

1. Vv.8-10 - God's initiative, irrevocable cov't
2. V.11 - **primary element: The Land is Abraham's!**

B. The Times of Joseph (vv. 16-22) [God is **sovereign]**

Genesis 41:53-57 (Gen 37-50 at large)

1. The point is the amazing power, sovereignty of God (vv. 16-17)
2. *v.19 - all happened till God's Word came to pass (Gen 50.20)

C. The Bondage in Egypt (vv. 23-38) [God is **powerful/protector]**

Exodus 1:1-12 (Ex 1-11 at large)

1. God acted to fulfill His promise-- "He"

Exodus 7-11	Psalm 105
1. Blood	9. Darkness
2. Frogs	1. Blood
3. Gnats	2. Frogs
4. Flies	4. Flies
5. Livestock Disease	3. Gnats
6. Boils	
7. Hail	7. Hail
8. Locusts	8. Locusts
9. Darkness	
10. Death of Firstborn	10. Death of Firstborn

Ex. 7-11 -- Comparing the Order of the Plagues in Ex & Ps 105

2. Vv.37-38 - God's plan & power & protection!!

D. The Wandering in Wilderness (vv. 39-43) [God is **providing/patient]**

Exodus 13:21-22; 16:4-8, 13-21, 35; 17:1-7; Num 20:1-11 (Ex 13-17; Num 10-33; Deut 1-3 at large)

1. This section all underscores GOD providing!!
2. V.43 - God brings them out *with joy!* God has joy!

E. The Entrance into Canaan (vv. 44-45a) [God is **good]**

Joshua 11:16-23; Deut 4:1, 2, 40

1. God gave them the lands.
2. **So that** [בְּעֵבֶר; ὅπως] - they may keep His statutes & observe His laws (or, seek earnestly; LXX: ἐκζητήσωσιν).
Varner: Not comfort for us but conformity to Him is the true goal toward which all blessings lead.

WHY the history? Why God's faithfulness? Why God's grace?

NOT for sin to abound; but for us to walk according to the Spirit (Rom 8.4).

God's grace propels & energizes & enables the believer to obey & submit & follow!!

What do we learn from our history lesson?

1. We learn the faithfulness of the Lord.
2. We learn that God is the source & designer of everything that happens.
3. We learn that God uses many ways (even unpleasant & hard ones at times!) to accomplish His sovereign will.
4. We learn that God's "remembering" His covenant and His character *must* result in our praise & adoration before Him.

5. We learn that this praise and adoration expresses itself in heartfelt obedience and submission to our great King.

III. HEAR THE RESPONSE IN WORSHIP! (45b)

A simple phrase: הללו יהוה.

v.45b - PRAISE THE LORD

- A. The **PLEA** to worship! [*imperative: Praise!*]
- B. The **PATHWAY** to worship! [*through Christ!*]
- C. The **PRAISE** in worship! [*worship, exult!*]
- D. The **PRIORITY** of worship! [*way of life!*]
- E. The **POSTURE** in worship! [*humbly, lowly*]
- F. The **PERFECTION** of worship! [*heaven!*]

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Consider the heart of a believer: God has loved me, **so I must live for Him**. Christ has so loved me perfectly, so I must live for Him fully!
- **Titus 3.5-8!** — *reflect on His grace & live for His glory!*