

Let the Wicked Be No More

Psalms 103:1 – 106:48

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~ When Gustavus Adolphus entered Augsburg in victory after defeating Lypsich, Psalm one hundred three was read aloud and publicly. This is a Psalm that looks forward to its fulfillment in a new day; a day *beyond* the Millennial Kingdom — out in the vastness of eternity future. In the past, the nation Israel turned to this Psalm again and again; and Godly Israelite's still look to this Psalm for comfort today. The church, and all believers, find a source of strength and light here. This is another Psalm of praise for the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ; and thanksgiving for the things God gives us on this earth. It seems most likely this was sung as an antiphone; probably beginning as a solo, and concluding with a symphony of universal praise. Well, that's exactly how our Spiritual Safari will move out in this report, across the blossoming desert sands of the Book of Psalms, as our camel train commences once again....

COOO ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

~ This is a present-tense admonition for our souls to bless the Lord! The Polychrome Bible translates verse one as, “.... *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is deepest within me....*” The remainder of this Psalm is going to get right down where we live and have our being. We're told to glorify and praise God; but, personally, when I come to this Psalm, I recognize I can't quite make it. I do the best I can, and my soul goes out to the Lord – but not like it should. This troubles me greatly, because there is a real danger of going to church, and performing the rituals but, in reality, all we are doing is parroting pious platitudes. Let's move along.

God warned His people about this in Isaiah when He said, “.... *wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth,*

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and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.” They were going to the temple, but it was an external façade of worship and veneer of lip service. There was no submission to the Word of God or His demands; no obedience — just an empty following of some other man’s precepts. It’s easy for a protestant to point the finger at Judaism or Romanism and say, “... look how dead your religion is.” Well, how dead is *YOUR* church and *YOUR* worship?

The answer to that question troubles my own heart, friends. If I could only lift up a praise of purity from the depths of my soul, I wouldn’t worry so much about all of this; but, I’m just being honest with you readers — because I always am honest with you: my old nature and my flesh just doesn’t rise to that level; I never seem to attain to that high place of praise and worship. I don’t thank God as I would like to thank Him in worshiping Him. And let’s not let that get around the internet. This is our little secret. I do the best I can.

Hysterical chanting of prayer and ritualistic gyration-related worship performances in the church can be found on any street corner – but none of it is real. It’s easy to espouse modernism rejects all of the tremendous truths; but how close to God is your heart, friends? The flesh cannot attain to this Psalms directive. Only by the Holy Spirit living through me can I even worship in Spirit and in Truth. I try not to forget the privileges I have through salvation; and God has been very good to me – but, unfortunately, I *easily* forget all His benefits. Maybe you don’t – I do....

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

~ Verses three through ten form a declaration concerning Jehovah our God. Many people disagree with me when I say this speaks of the Kingdom age, not yet come on earth. Well, only in that future Kingdom-age setting can verse three refer to physical and spiritual diseases. In the Kingdom age, the inhabitants shall not say, “.... *I am sick.*” Because all that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity. So, no one is going to be sick, as they are today. That’s Isaiah chapter thirty-three verse twenty-four, by the way. People seem to think that the faith-healer emphasizes salvation, but it’s always addressed as an invitation to accept Christ *AFTER* the healing portion of the service. That’s backwards. I don’t buy it. God doesn’t operate that way.

There can be no healing until our sins are forgiven! Be not deceived, friends; disease and death are the result of sin. Period. Full stop. The sin question will have to be settled *FIRST*. God heals all men of all diseases and sicknesses down here *EXCEPT* the one that kills them! Peter said, “.... *who his own self bare OUR SINS in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*” That means healed of *SINS*; and that is first Peter chapter two verse twenty-four. Sin is the universal disease of mankind on the earth; and that is all-important to understand.

Many of God’s choicest and finest servants have been sick — and never healed physically — in this life. Paul the apostle was one of them; and if anyone should have claimed healing, I would think it would have been Paul.

The thorn in his flesh was, apparently, eye trouble. Milton, Kraus, Keller – all very famous saints who were never healed of their sicknesses and diseases. Do you really have the audacity to claim healing and say there is something wrong with the person who doesn't receive healing? Are you seriously prepared to advise God who He should heal? Sure, it's wonderful if God heals us; but physical healing is not part of God's promises to His saints today. Glorified bodies are part of the atonement, and we'll receive new bodies at that time and in that day, but it hasn't happened yet.

See, God made His ways known to Moses; but all the children of Israel saw were the miracles. They didn't understand the spiritual aspect – and I don't think most of them were interested in God; in fact, I know they weren't. That's the condition with a whole lot of people in the church today, too. They may recognize certain truths, but they never really enter into the way of the Lord. Well, even with all of the suffering, sicknesses and diseases that afflict all of us, God still hasn't dealt with us according to our sins. I don't know who you are, where you are, when you are, or how you are; but I do know God *STILL* hasn't dealt with us by rewarding us according to our iniquities. That's why I always say that *mercy* is what we all need — above everything else. If God dealt with us according to His justice and righteousness, not a single one of us would ever be saved. You might want to think that over....

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

~ God has removed our transgressions from us; as far as the east is from the west — not as far as the north from the south — because, if you go far enough north, you'll begin going south. However, if you start out going west, you'll just continue west forever. God is so good; but very few of us seem to recognize the extent of His goodness. God remembers that we are dust — but we seem to forget it; and when dust gets stuck on itself, it becomes mud. That's when we need to get cleaned up. We won't be here very long, friends. When God makes us begin to turn gray, and we have trouble getting out of bed in the morning — that's God telling us we're not going to be hanging around earth much longer. That's the time to make sure we have ourselves all straightened-out with the Lord. That's the message the Psalmist has for us. Thank God the future is mercy; from everlasting to everlasting, for those who fear His Name....

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1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

10 He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills.

11 They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

13 He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

14 He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

15 And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

16 The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;

17 Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house.

18 The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

20 Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

21 The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

22 The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

23 Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

31 The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

32 He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.

33 I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

34 My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

35 Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

~ Psalm one hundred four is praise to the God of creation! Each day of creation is covered in this Psalm. Day one is verse two. Verse three is day two. Day three is verse five. Verse nineteen is day four. Day five brought animal life, and all that is in the ocean, and that's in verse twenty through twenty-five. Day six brings the existence of man in verse thirty. Man was created and placed on the earth to praise God. Because of man's sin, God is going to remove them from off of the earth. That's verse thirty-five. Unless we are willing to turn to Christ, we'll not be inheriting the earth with the meek *in that day*. When God removes us, we will travel to another permanent place with a wholly different address. We just don't happen to

reside in a meaningless universe of random chance. The Word of God has a meaning, a plan, and purpose for each of our lives....

C70

1 O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth.

8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

11 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:

12 When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.

13 When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people;

14 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes;

15 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

16 Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

20 The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:

22 To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.

23 Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

24 And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies.

25 He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.

26 He sent Moses his servant; and Aaron whom he had chosen.

27 They shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

28 He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.

29 He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.

30 Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.

31 He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

32 He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

33 He smote their vines also and their fig trees; and brake the trees of their coasts.

34 He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillers, and that without number,

35 And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.

36 He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.

37 He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

38 Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them.

39 He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

40 The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.

43 And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:

44 And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;

45 That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the LORD.

C7D

1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?

3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;

5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

6 We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.

8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.

17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.

20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.

21 They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.

23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

26 Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:

27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.

28 They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

29 Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them.

30 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed.

31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.

32 They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:

33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them:

35 But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

36 And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.

37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,

38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

39 Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

40 Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

41 And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.

43 Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

45 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

46 He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

47 Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

48 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with two historical Psalms – one hundred five and one hundred six. I am confident David wrote Psalm one hundred five, because the first part is the same as first Chronicles chapter sixteen verses eight through twenty-two. That's when David brought the Ark of the Lord into Jerusalem. Then, the Psalmist begins with Abraham and the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then, the historic record of Joseph in the land of Egypt is accounted for. It goes on describing Moses and Aaron – and verse thirty-eight is interesting as Egypt was glad when the children of Israel departed. After the death angel swept through, it's easy to understand the Egyptians wanted the Israelite's out. Psalm one hundred five continues right on into the Promised Land; and that's something else to praise God for! Frankly, there's something wrong with us if we cannot look back in our life and find *something* to thank God for.

Psalm one hundred six is another long, historic Psalm ending this Numbers section in our Pentateuch of Psalms. All the way through the wilderness *in that day*, this Psalm follows the children of Israel and praises God as it goes. There are great confessions in verse six. Can you look back and thank God for your salvation today? Have you turned to the Lord Jesus Christ and received His gift of salvation? Can you praise God for forgiving you of your sins? If you've never done those things, or even if you have, then I would strongly encourage you to make this the day that you do it — or do it again. God is in the business of saving people. His offer is a free gift, and He is calling you to accept it. These Psalms are magnificent; we should get saturated in them. In our next report, we will examine a proper perception of, and get a glimpse of, the sheer greatness of our God displayed as we begin the Deuteronomy section of Psalms. For most Christians, their view of God is just too small. I hope you will join us on safari and stay with us until the very end ~

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