



WBC Verse for the Year 2020

'The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'
(Lamentations 3 verses 22-23)

Psalm 107

Here is a summary on Psalm 107,
with some things to reflect on during each section.

A video of this is available online - <https://youtu.be/NPNEeu2Cqul>

Sadly we know that human love can be temporary. One can talk of both falling in and falling out of it! *What about God's love?*

Verse 1 sets the scene for this psalm with a wonderful assurance, and a reason to *'Give thanks!'*

*'Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.'*

Does it always feel like that to you? What about those times when life is tough? Maybe some days, maybe today, the idea that God loves you with an enduring love is hard to comprehend.

Romans 8vv38-39 reminds us how nothing *'will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'*.

Psalm 107 opens up book 5 of the psalms, taking us through various trials and afflictions of God's people. Yet as they cry out to God, he delivers and rescues them. Demonstrating, and giving a reason for them to give thanks for his enduring, unending, love.

READ: PSALM 107 verses 1-3

Love shown through redemption

Verses 1-3 introduce the Psalm, before taking us on our journey through Israel's history. It sets the scene as it writes to those who have been *'redeemed ... gathered.'*

The Psalmist is writing to those restored from exile to Assyria and Babylon. Reminding them that as his redeemed people, they have known God's faithful, covenantal, enduring love throughout.

REFLECT ...

... On how God has demonstrated his love for us through the redemption we have in Jesus.

'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.' (Ephesians 1 vv7-8)

READ: PSALM 107 verses 4-9

Love which satisfies hunger and thirst

Verses 4-9 reminds us of Israel's experience in the post Egypt wilderness years, as well as in exile. When, v4 they had no city (Jerusalem). Those times of hunger and thirst v5, alleviated when they called on the LORD to provide *'and he delivered them from their distress'* (v6).

God in his faithfulness, took them under Joshua led them *'to a city where they could settle'* (v7).

The response? *'Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things'* (vv8-9).

REFLECT ...

... On how our hunger & thirst is ultimately satisfied in Jesus, who says:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.' (John 6v35)

Far more than physical bread, Jesus satisfies a deeper filling. As bread meets our basic need and sustains us, so Jesus meets our need to be right with God, and continues to sustain us.

READ: PSALM 107 verses 10-16

Love which breaks through the darkness

Verses 10-12 reflect on how Israel's unfaithfulness - *'for they had rebelled against the words of God.'* (v11) - led to their oppression, their imprisonment.

God had warned Israel of the consequences of their unfaithfulness toward him. That he would *'scatter them among the nations.'* (Leviticus 26v33). How they would serve these enemies in slavery (Deuteronomy 28vv47-48).

Yet, despite their faithlessness, God's love endured. As they cry out he saves, restores, breaking their chains (vv13-14).

So - *'Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he breaks down the gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron'* (vv15-16).

REFLECT ...

... On how Jesus has taken us from darkness to light.
How trusting in him has freed us from sin.

Jesus is the *'light of the world'* (John 8v12). In John 1 (vv4-9) we see how he brings light to the darkness of our sin, and understanding.

Through faith and trust in Jesus, we are no longer condemned, bound by the chains of sin, we have been set free! (Romans 8vv1-2).

As Charles Wesley wrote in his hymn 'And can it be'

*'Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.'*

READ: PSALM 107 verses 17-22

Love which heals and saves from death

Our next section speaks of some who suffered affliction because of their rebellion. Sickness which took them to the brink of death, as they refused to eat.

Yet, again as they cry out, the LORD saves them (v19). Healing and rescuing them from the grave (v20).

Therefore - *'Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men., Let them sacrifice thank-offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy'* (vv21-22).

REFLECT ...

... On how Jesus takes us from death to life.

'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.' (Romans 3v23)

As a result we look forward to a new heavens and a new earth, where there will be no more suffering and death (Revelation 21v4).

READ: PSALM 107 verses 23-32

Love more powerful than any threat against us

As we continue, we come to this scene of sailors at the mercy of God as they battle the life threatening waves of the sea.

In the bible, the sea is used as a metaphor for chaos, for evil, for powers that threaten to overwhelm us. We in comparison are weak and fragile. In such situations we, like Israel in our Psalm, can cry out to God who will hear and respond to us in distress.

In response, the psalmist calls on Israel to: *'Give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders'* (vv31-32).

REFLECT ...

... On how Jesus brings calm to the storms of life (Mark 4vv35-41).

... On the Peace which God gives us as we cry out to him in our anxieties in the midst of life's storms. (Philippians 4vv6-7).

... On our assurance that one day there will no longer be such chaos and evil that threatens to overwhelm us (Revelation 21v1).

READ: PSALM 107 verses 33-43

Love ... through the good and the bad times

The psalm concludes with a reminder of God at work through his people in the good and the bad times. Here we see times when they have experienced his wonderful provision for them (vv35-37, 41). At other times, to humble them, allowing them to go through difficult times of testing (vv33-34, 39-40).

Good or bad, God's love endures for ever (v1). Throughout the experiences of this section, and of the psalm as a whole we, like Israel in this Psalm, should *'consider the great love of the LORD.'* (v43).

REFLECT ...

... On how (as we saw in the introduction) on Romans 8vv38-39:

Nothing *'will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

... On how Romans 8v28 reminds us that:

'in all things God works for the good of those who love him.'

These are just some thoughts.

What else strikes you about this passage?