

Psalm 106 - Review

In chapter one-hundred-six, part 1, we learned that this is the *very last* chapter in the ‘Numbers Book’ of the Psalms (chapters 90-106), and it is considered the ‘Epilogue’ because it’s the concluding chapter that rounds out the overall subject of the ‘Numbers Book’, which is: the coming ‘rest’ (peace) for the world when the true ‘King of kings’ (Christ Jesus) finally returns to rule, and judge, the world *in righteousness*. And we also learned that the subject/title of this great Psalm 106 is “***Rest. How Lost, and Valued***”. So, it’ll teach us (mostly through a history lesson) of what the *true* ‘rest’ is, how it can be *lost*, as well as how it can be *found* and how *valuable* it truly is. That’s why this Psalm began by calling us to ‘praise the Lord’ and give thanks to Him; because He truly is good and his mercy endures forever (continues throughout all generations). But we also learned there is a *condition* to God’s mercy, and it involves being willing to face ourselves, repent for our sins and try hard to change them, *from the heart*. And, so long as we do this, our Heavenly Father is *always* faithful to forgive us, regardless of how short we fall at times.

And then we also saw the Psalmist use a common figure of speech (*Erotosis*, i.e. asking questions to make a point) to express *great* wonder, and admiration, for the *unfathomable* magnitude of our Heavenly Father’s holy characteristics *and* mighty works. And then we saw the Psalmist explain how we can be truly ‘blessed’ (happy) in life. For, when we learn to use good judgment in our own personal lives, we’ll study His word so to learn how to treat others according to the Ten Commandments - which were summed up, by Jesus, as loving (and obeying) God with *all* our heart, mind, soul and strength and loving others as ourselves (Matt 22:36-40 and Mark 12:28-31). This truly is the ‘royal law’ according to the Scriptures (Lev 19:18; James 2:8; Matt 7:12). In other words, that sums up what God’s Laws (and the prophets) teach us. And then we learned that those who are blessed (happy) are also those who earnestly *strive* to do what’s right, from the heart (obey God’s Word) for all the rest of their life. Peter really sums this up well, when he says that we should *no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God* (1 Peter 4:2).

In part 2 we saw the Psalmist begin to turn his prayer to *the people of his nation*, Israel, by asking the Lord to remember them (Israel) in a ‘favorable light’ and grant them salvation (deliverance, aid and/or prosperity) – which shows he has *a lot* of compassion for his nation. And we also learned that it’s good for us to do so too, especially to pray for the *spiritual* salvation of those in our nation, as many others have done (Dan 9, Ezra 9 and Neh 1). And it’s also good for us to ask the Lord (YHWH) to remember His promises, too (as Isa 43:27 says) because that shows the Lord (YHWH) that we *know* His promises, which shows we’ve been *seeking* Him. Yet it also shows we *believe* in His promises, which shows we *believe* in Him. And further, it also shows Him we feel like we are *doing* what is required to get His promises. And, when we do this, our Heavenly Father will either fulfil His promise(s), or help us to see what we need to do (such

as repent or anything else) in order to obtain them. And then we saw the Psalmist declare his hopes for Israel. And what he hoped for is not much (if any) different than what most people hope for. For, he hoped to see his nation (Israel) blessed by God, which would brighten up his spirits, as well as the others living in Israel. Of course, that implies Israel was not getting many (if any) blessings, at the time he wrote this Psalm. And lastly, the Psalmist hoped to *celebrate* with Israel, who was God's 'inheritance' (His *heirloom* or servant nation) when they obeyed Him. In other words, the Psalmist hoped to see Israel get back to being *obedient* to the Lord (YHVH), which is what brings blessings from the Lord (YHVH).

And then we also learned of the importance of learning history, for it teaches us the importance of believing in, and obeying, our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ), which can only be done when we *know His Word* (Law and promises). And this is *critical* for us today because, we who are living today, truly are living in the 'last days'. And that means the 'great tribulation' is soon to come upon us. And this tribulation will be *worse than ever before* (Mth 24:21) *because of* the *great* deception that Satan (and his fallen angels) will pour out upon the world (a flood of lies, Rev 12:15) when they are cast from heaven, to earth, to try and fool the world into worshipping Satan *and* his wicked 'beast' governing system (Rev 12-13; 2 Thess 2, etc.). So, it is *especially* critical for us to *study history* (as this Psalm will explain) so we don't lose the 'rest' (peace) that comes from being a *faithful* servant to the Lord (Heb 3-4) – not now, nor when the *true* Jesus Christ returns (as will happen to some, Mth 7:21-23).

In part 3 we learned that the Israelites, who were living at the time this Psalm was written, had sinned *after the similitude* that their 'fathers' (ancestors) did, i.e. they had failed to obey the Lord's (YHVH's) righteous Laws and became utterly corrupted instead. And that's why Israel was not being blessed, at the time this Psalm was written. And the Psalmist pointed out that they became corrupted (departed from God's righteous Laws) *because* they (like their forefathers) *didn't remember* the many great (and mighty) wonders the Lord (YHVH) did for Israel, to free them from Egyptian bondage - nor any of the other *many* mighty, and wonderous, works He did for Israel *after* that. This is *why* we too should remember the history the Bible teaches us; for if we don't remember them, we too will lack the faith needed to obey the Lord – which always results in losing the 'rest' (peace) that God promises *those who obey Him*. And then we learned how, despite Israel's faithlessness (sins, iniquity and wickedness) the Lord (YHVH) saved them from the Egyptian army, when they were about to attack Israel. And this was another mighty work of the Lord (YHVH) we should remember. For, it not only shows His power, but also His compassion on His children, as well as His faithfulness to perform His *unconditional* promises He gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel.

In part 4 we learned that, even though Israel had literally witnessed *many mighty* works (i.e. the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the Egyptian army) the children of Israel promptly (*very* quickly) forgot (acted as though they were oblivious to) them!

For, it only took *three days*, of walking in the wilderness, for Israel to totally forget what was surely the *most amazing* miracles they had *ever* seen in their life! And their lack of memory caused them to complain *obstinately* (stubbornly and tenaciously) to Moses. And we also learned that this (being double minded) is what happens when we *don't control* our carnal mind (our heart, the part of us that wants to sin, i.e. our desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and *keep* God's Word (and) will as our *top priority* in life. And we also learned that the children of Israel didn't 'wait for' God's 'counsel' because they didn't *adhere to* (#2442) God's command to gather the manna in the mornings and only get what they needed, for it wouldn't last more than that day. And not all of them were obedient to gather twice what they needed before the Sabbath day either, which was another one of God's instructions. Truly, our Heavenly Father gives us His Word (Laws, instructions) *for our good*. But, if we lack faith in Him (and don't remember His mighty works and His Commandments, i.e. Word) then we too will forget to diligently obey Him, from the heart. And that again is why the Israelites were a good example for us (1 Cor 10:11) of what we should not be like!

And then we also learned how the children of Israel *lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert*. This referred to when Israel later lusted to have meat to eat (such as the quail He'd provided for them shortly after they came out of Egypt). And what's amazing (in a bad way) about that was: even though they forgot God's mighty works (freeing them from Egyptian bondage via the plagues and saving them from the Egyptian's by parting the Red Sea), they *could* remember all the 'good foods' they had while in *bondage* to the Egyptians! And they 'tempted' (tested) God (in their heart) when they asked for meat (flesh) to eat (because they lusted) because, instead of asking humbling (and with respect) they were disrespectful, and unbelieving, that the Lord (YHVH) *could* provide for them again. And, even though the Lord (YHVH) did give them their request, He also punished them in doing so. For, as they were eating the quail, the Lord (YHVH) smote those who ate it with a great plague. Thus, God caused those who lusted (and tempted Him) to loathe the very thing they lusted for! And, these lessons from history are ones we should keep tightly in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations), and mind (thoughts), so we *don't* follow after the examples of the rebellious, ungrateful and unfaithful Israelites who – despite literally seeing many miraculous events in the wilderness – *didn't remember them* and thus, *didn't believe in* (nor obey) the Lord (YHVH).

In part 5 we learned how Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (along with 250 'princes' of Israel) 'rose up' *against* Moses, and Aaron, and accused *them* of 'lifting themselves up' above *all the others*. In other words, they were accusing Moses and Aaron of *making themselves* rulers over the nation of Israel. And really, that's nearly calling them 'dictators'! What this boils down to is that these men were making a 'power grab' - or, as we'd say today, a 'coup' - to overthrow the *legitimate* government that the Lord (YHVH) had established. And we also learned what caused them to do this: *envy*, which means a *painful, or resentful, awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, joined with a desire to possess the same advantage*. But, we also learned Moses and Aaron were

both *chosen by the Lord*, YHVH (Ex 3:10, 4:16, 7:1, etc.). And that's *why* our Heavenly Father put these men (the leaders of the rebellion) to death in quite a spectacular way: by causing the earth to *literally* open up (a hole opened up), 'swallow them' (they *fell into* the hole) and cover them up (the hole closed up, as miraculously as it opened)! And then the Lord (YHVH) caused fire to come down from heaven, and literally kill the other rebel leaders (who represented the other tribes). And, because the Lord (YHVH) killed off the rebels in such a *spectacular* way (not normal; it had never happened before), it *proved* that Moses and Aaron were not trying to 'lord over' the Israelites and, thus, they *truly were* appointed by God (YHVH) to govern the nation.

And this is a *very good* lesson for us today too, to teach us *why* we should *not* be rebellious. Not only should we obey the laws of the nation we live in (so long as they don't demand we disobey God's Laws) but, first and foremost, we should obey our Heavenly Father! And even if the Laws of the land demand we disobey the Lord (YHVH), *we still shouldn't be insurrectionists*. Rather, we are to simply *non-comply* with their wicked demands *regardless* of what they do to us. People like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Dan 6 and 3) show us how the Lord (YHVH) is fully able to save us from the wickedness of *any* government, **if** we remain *faithful* (and are not rebellious) to the Lord (YHVH) our God. And even if our fate is to die, for obeying the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. obeying and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ), we are promised *great* rewards in heaven (Matt 5:10-12); which means obtaining *eternal* life and being allowed to serve in Jesus Christ's righteous government, when He returns to rule the world forevermore (Rev 20:4-6). So, envy really is a terrible sin (of the *heart*) and can cause us to do terrible sins *outwardly*. This is the main 'lesson from history' we learned in our last study.

In part 6 we learned about another time Israel sinned *terribly*, and of the great intercession Moses made (on behalf of Israel) with the Lord (YHVH), who threatened to wipe them all out. And that terrible sin was when Israel made a golden calf (an idol) *and* worshipped it, *only forty days* (and nights) after they had made a Covenant with the Lord (YHVH) – where they promised *not* to worship any other gods, nor to make any graven images (idols), nor to bow down to them (the First and Second Commandments) – *all* of which were things they did *only forty days after* they **swore** *not* to do! Yet, despite Israel's great sin, the Lord (YHVH) did not destroy them *all*, thanks to Moses' intercession - when he reminded the Lord (YHVH) of His *unconditional* promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, albeit He did punish them by sending a plague among them. And we also learned that Moses' great intercession was a type of our Savior Jesus Christ. For He shed His righteous blood on the cross so that *anyone* who believes upon Him, repents for their sins *and obeys Him* (from the heart) will be forgiven. And thus, they will be spared from God's great wrath that *will* come upon all those who worship Satan, and make an image to his wicked beast system (participate in it), and bow down to it. So, the blessing of Jesus' interceding for us (by which we find salvation *and* eternal life, Heb 7:25) is the main point of the 'history lesson' we learned of in the last study. And that just reiterates the *overall* lesson, of this Psalm 106, which is

how gracious the Lord (YHVH) was to deliver (and forgive) Israel *so many times*, despite their rebelliousness to Him.

In part 7 we learned how the children of Israel despised (spurned) the Promise Land because they believed the evil report (slander) that ten of the (twelve) spies so wickedly spread around the *entire* camp. Though they confessed the land was indeed a good land full of ‘milk and honey’, they didn’t think they conquer the giants living in the land - *despite* what God had promised them and despite what the two good spies (Caleb and Joshua) testified to. As such, the people (yet again) murmured against Moses and Aaron (which means they ultimately were murmuring against our Heavenly Father) and even accused them (i.e. God) of only bringing them into the wilderness to die! Worse yet, they spoke of appointing a *new* leader, to lead them *back into Egypt*, where they were *slaves*! And God’s initial reaction to this was to wipe them all out. Yet, because Moses intervened (again), the Lord only smote the slanderous spies with a plague. However, it was at this time that God condemned that generation of Israelites (who were twenty years and older) to die in the wilderness. He promised they would not be allowed to inherit the Promise Land (because of their consistent lack of faith and rebelliousness) and, instead, they would have to wander around in the wilderness for forty more years (forty years for the forty days the spies searched out the land), until all of that faithless generation died off.

And we also saw the Psalmist compare Israel’s *continual* lack of faith, rebelliousness and murmurings (against the Lord, YHVH) during their time in the wilderness, to the promise that Israel would be cast out of the Promise Land, and scattered amongst the nations, **if** they did as their forefathers (in the wilderness) did (disobeying God, rebelling, murmuring, etc.). And, sadly, this did come to pass. But, our Heavenly Father also promised to *re-gather* Israel, which He *did do* during the Christian Era. So, the last study (again) showed us Israel’s terrible faithlessness, and rebelliousness, towards our Heavenly Father, when they were in the wilderness... despite the fact that He freed them from Egyptian bondage! However, it also showed us (again) the extent of God’s *great* mercy, and grace, in not killing them all off *and* in fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel.

In part 8 we learned of a time when Israel was in the wilderness and dwelling close to the Moabites, who were afraid of Israel. And they therefore (at the counsel of Balaam) *intentionally* sent their religious prostitutes to seduce the men of Israel into worshipping (even bowing down to) their false god Baal-peor. And they used a snare that’s been used throughout all time, i.e. sexual seduction. And we learned that God caused a plague to break out upon Israel, because of this grievous sin. And it was only stopped when Aaron’s grandson, Phinehas, boldly executed judgment upon an Israelite man who (in open defiance to the Lord, YHVH) *openly* took one of the Midianite’s whores *into his tent*. Thus, Phinehas righteously thrust a spear *clear through* the Israelite man, *and* Midianitish woman (whore), *right as they were ‘doing it’* in the tent! And we also learned that, this act was *so pleasing* to our Heavenly Father He gave Phinehas a ‘covenant

of peace’ and promised him an everlasting priesthood, which means the priesthood would continue on through *his* descendants.

And then we learned of the *one and only* time Moses really ‘lost his cool’. For, after many years of putting up with their imprudent complaints and rebelliousness, when the children of Israel *again* chided with him (*again* accusing him of bringing them into the wilderness to die, because there was no water where they were camping) he became *incredibly* angry with them. And that’s what caused him to disobey the Lord’s (YHVH’s) command to simply ‘speak’ to the rock. Instead, he angrily asked the rebellious Israelites if he, and Aaron, had to *again* get water for them... and he then *struck* the rock *twice*, instead of simply *speaking* to it (as God commanded). Because of this, the Lord (YHVH) would not let Moses (or Aaron, who didn’t stop Moses from striking the rock) enter the Promise Land. And this shows us just *how fair* our Heavenly Father is (not a ‘respector of persons’). For He wouldn’t allow, even His *top two* servants (Moses and Aaron), to go without punishment. Yet, He still graciously allowed the water to gush forth out of the rock (despite Moses’ not obeying Him) so Israel could have the water needed to sustain themselves, their children and animals. We also learned that, even though the Lord (YHVH) forgave Moses (and Aaron) for this incident, His judgment (of not allowing them to enter the Promise Land) stood firm. And that’s because, even when we are forgiven, we may still have to endure God’ chastisements (Heb 12). So, in the last study we learned of several more examples of *why* it’s *so vital* to keep our faith in the Lord (YHVH) *strong and strive* (sincerely) *to obey Him*. For truly, without *true* faith in the Lord (YHVH) we’ll *never* be able to receive the ‘rest’ (peace) He has promised us. Not in the flesh life (peace of mind) nor when Jesus Christ returns (i.e. obtaining the first resurrection to eternal life).

In part 9 we learned about Israel’s failure to keep God’s Laws when they were in the Promise Land. For they didn’t ‘utterly destroy’ the heathen but, instead, mingled with them and learned their wicked ways, even that of idolatry. And, eventually, they became so corrupted that the land became polluted with blood, even with the blood of their own children. For some people even sacrificed (murdered) their own children to devils (i.e. fallen angels)! Yet, they themselves became defiled (sick) from their filthy ways (sexual perversion and unclean eating) because they continued to whore after the false gods, and idols (which represented the false gods). And because of this, the Lord’s (YHVH’s) wrath was greatly kindled against them, for He abhorred the abominations of His ‘inheritance’ (Israel was to be His inheritance because they were supposed to be His ‘servant nation’ who would spread His righteous Laws to the world). That’s why He allowed heathen nations to invade, conquer and subjugate them, which was true to His Word (in Deut 28 and Lev 26) to send cursings when they disobeyed Him. Yet, when they cried out to Him for help (in sincere repentance) He *always* delivered them.

So, Israel’s time in the ‘Promise Land’ was a continuous cycle of idolatry, oppression, repentance, and deliverance from the Lord (YHVH) - who was always faithful to help them

*because of His great compassion and because of His promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel. And He was even compassionate on those who were taken captive, by the heathen nations, for He caused Israel's captives to show them pity. And, while we don't know for sure when this Psalm was written, it was clearly at a time when Israel was in great distress and, at least some of them, had been taken captive (which could have been at several points in time of their history in the Promise Land). And that's why the Psalmist ended this Psalm by pleading with the Lord (YHWH) God (Elohiym) to save Israel, and to gather them from the heathen nations, so they praise His holy name (character). And saw the Psalmist end this beautiful Psalm with call for all the people of Israel to 'bless the Lord' (as in Ps 103-104) forever and to affirm the truth written in this Psalm with an 'amen'. The Psalmist then ended this Psalm with a 'Praise Ye the Lord', which is (in the Hebrew) 'Hallelujah'! And what this taught us was that, when we take the 'ending thoughts' of first three 'hallelujah' Psalms (104-106) we see three 'key' (critically important) elements to Jesus Christ's return (His Second Advent), which are: salvation, obeying God's Laws and the wicked being consumed (deposed and eventually put to death). For, of a truth, salvation (and 'rest', i.e. peace) *does come from* our Savior (Jesus Christ) putting an end to the wicked people (their control over us as well as their eventual death *if* they don't accept Jesus by the end of the Millennium) and helping us learn how to obey His righteous Laws, which are for our good (Deut 10:13).*

Therefore, after the wicked are consumed, and we learn to obey our Heavenly Father, we can finely find the true 'rest' (peace) that this 'Numbers book' has been teaching us about! And while we (who love and obey God/Jesus) can obtain peace of mind (and protection) *even now* (Isa 26:3; John 14:27, 16:33, etc.), it's only when Jesus Christ returns that the *entire world* will *finally* live in peace, and safety, *forever*. And we also learned that the last verse of the Psalm (106:48) is a 'closing praise' that denotes that, this is the *end* of the 'Numbers book' of the Psalm, which is common in the other chapters that ended the other 'books' of the Psalms (Ps 41:13, 72:19, 89:52).

*7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, **To day if ye will hear his voice,***

*8 **Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation,** in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

*12 **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.***

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Heb 3:7-14

AMEN.