

Part 7 – Fruitful or Barren

In part 6 we learned about those who work on ships that go out to sea (i.e. sailors), for trade purposes. Because sailors spend a lot of time at sea, they, therefore, get to see the mighty works of the Lord (YHVH, #3068) which are at sea. However, they also experience the storms that arise while out at sea. And, sometimes the storms are *so fierce* that there's nothing else they can do but cry out to God Almighty (YHVH) for help! And when they do so (sincerely) the Lord (YHVH) does help them by calming the sea *and* guiding them to the safety of their desired harbor (i.e. He helps them get to their destination), which undoubtedly causes them to be very grateful for our Heavenly Father's help. And the Psalmist actually put forth this example as an analogy to teach us an important 'life lesson'. For, while we might never go onto a ship, and experience the dangers of the sea, we *will* have *some* 'rough sailing' in our own personal lives. Yet, as Peter taught us (in Matt 14:22-33), if we keep our spiritual eyes (heart and mind) upon Jesus Christ (God's Word), and call out to Him (earnestly) when we need help, then the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us!

And further to this, so long as we continue to study God's Word, and earnestly try to obey it (from the heart), our Heavenly Father *will* see to it that *much* of our life is 'smooth sailing', simply because *we are His servants*. And He knows what we need *and* what we can handle. As, 1 Cor 10:13 promises, our Heavenly Father will never let us be tempted, or tested, above what we can handle. Yet, He will allow some 'rough sailing' in our life to come along, simply because the hard times test our faith in Him. And, if we succeed in trusting Him through the hard times, our faith in Him will be much, *much* stronger! Moreover, just as the sailors in this analogy had a 'desired haven', so do we desire to 'go to heaven'. And we can be assured that, so long as we continue to keep our spiritual eyes (heart and mind) upon the Lord (YHVH, i.e. God's Word), *faithfully* obey Him, *and* call out to Him when we need help (in faith), then He *will* indeed guide us to our 'desired haven' as well. And to this thought, the Psalmist then says...

Psalm 107

31 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

This is now the *fourth* time (8, 15, 21 and here) the Psalmist has written (verbatim) that he wishes *all* people would praise the Lord (YHVH) for His goodness *and* many wonderful works towards mankind. And, as we know by now, anytime something is repeated (in the Bible) it's done *for emphasis*. So, this is now a '**triple**' *emphasis* of the Psalmist's 'wish' that all people would truly worship, and obey, the Lord. So, he's *really* stressing the point that, it's better if we would just love (and obey) our Heavenly Father (*at all times*) instead of *only* calling upon Him when we need help!

Psalms 107

32 *Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*

Now, this is an ‘additional thought’ to the ‘wish’ the Psalmist made in the prior verse (that all people would Praise the Lord for His goodness and wonderful works). So, he ‘wishes’ that all people would ‘exalt’ (give glory to, #7311) the Lord (YHVH, #3068) in the ‘congregation’ of the people (assembly of the people, #6951) and ‘praise’ (celebrate, #1984) Him in the ‘assembly’ of the elders, which essentially means the ruling government (#4186, 2205). In other words, the Psalmist is not only wishing that the Lord God Almighty (YHVH) would be celebrated in so called ‘Church’, but also *throughout all the nation*, even in our governments! And *why*? Because, if people (everywhere) did this, then that would mean all people *served* our Heavenly Father instead of being rebellious to Him! Truly, the world *would* be a better place if everyone loved, worshiped and obeyed our Heavenly Father. And, one day *it will be* (Rev 21-22) ...

Psalms 107

33 *He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground;*
34 *A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.*

Now the Psalmist is beginning to speak of *more* reasons to praise (and thank) God Almighty (YHVH, #3068) who created us all (Rev 4:11, Ezek 18:4). But, he’s also pointing out the *full* power (and control) that our Heavenly Father has over His creation. The word ‘**rivers**’ here means *a stream*, including *the sea* (i.e. the Nile, Euphrates, etc.) and, figuratively, it can even be used to refer to *prosperity* (#5104). And then the word ‘**wilderness**’ means *a pasture* (i.e. open field, whither cattle are driven); yet, by implication, it can also mean *a desert* (#4057). And the word ‘**watersprings**’ is actually a combination of two Hebrew words, which means *water* (#4325) and (in the context of this verse) *a going forth*, i.e. *a fountain* (#4161). And the words ‘**dry ground**’ means *a thirsty place*, i.e. *desert* (#6774). So, verse 35 explains that the Lord (YHVH) is able to make places (that normally have an abundance of water) into dry land, even into a dessert! One very good example of this is how He parted the Red Sea for Israel (Ex 14). For the children of Israel didn’t cross the Red Sea on muddy ground, but on ground that was *totally* dry. So, they had *no problem* crossing it because it was as if they were walking *on land that had always been dry*! That really shows the *great* power (and intelligence) our Heavenly Father has. This is actually a miracle He repeated for Israel, decades later, when they moved into the Promise Land (Joshua 3).

And then, verse 35 gives us another example of the Lord’s (YHVH’s) mighty power by pointing out He can make *a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein*. The word ‘**fruitful**’ here means (not surprisingly) *fruit* (#6529) and the word ‘**land**’ here means either *the earth at large*, or *partitively a land* (#776); in this verse it’s referring to *a partitively of*

land, but our Heavenly Father can make the *entire* earth into barrenness (a ‘salted’ land, i.e. a desert, #4420) as Genesis 1:2 points out [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/488>]. But note the reason *why* He does these things: *for the wickedness of them that dwell therein*. The word ‘**wickedness**’ here means *bad* or (as noun) *evil* (natural or moral) (#7451). And it comes from a word that means *to spoil* (literally, by breaking to pieces); figuratively, *to make* (or *be*) *good for nothing*, i.e. *bad* (physically, socially or morally) (#7489). And the word ‘**dwell**’ means *to sit down*, *dwell* or *to remain* (#3427) - so it simply means He can (and does, and will) make the land (that wicked people are living in) dry and fruitless, even like that of a dessert. And He does so *because* of the wickedness (evil things) that the people living in the land do. And these are actually ‘cursings’ our Heavenly Father promised would come upon Israel if they disobeyed Him (Lev 26, Deut 11:17, 28), which He was indeed faithful to do (ex: 1 Kings 17, 2 Kings 4:38, Jer 14:1, etc.). Yet, this is also something He’s promised to do in the future too (Rev 11:6).

And so, our Heavenly Father not only uses droughts to punish people but, also to prove that He’s in *full* control of His creation. Further, physical droughts are also symbolic, *spiritually*, for lack of truth. As Amos 8:11 says, *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD***. Therefore, those who are rebellious against the Lord (YHVH) will not only have trouble getting physical rain, but also *spiritual* rain, which is *the truth* (God’s Word, John 17:17) that we need to live *enterally* (John 6:63). So, our Heavenly Father can either ‘dry up’ blessings or make them flow as ‘rain in due season’, depending on whether we *are* obeying Him *or not*!

Psalms 107

35 *He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.*

36 *And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation;*

Now the Psalmist speaks of the *opposite* of what we just learned about (watered lands being dried up into a dessert). Again, the word ‘**wilderness**’ means *a pasture* (i.e. open field, whither cattle are driven); yet, by implication, it can also mean *a desert* (#4057). In this verse it (again) refers to *a desert*. And the word ‘**standing**’ here means *a marsh* or *swamp* (#98) but it could also refer to a pond, as we call it today. And the words ‘**dry ground**’ are two Hebrew words that mean *arid*, or *desert* (#6723) *partitively of land* (#776). And then, the word ‘**watersprings**’ is (again) a combination of two Hebrew words, which means *water* (#4325) and (in the context of this verse) *a going forth*, i.e. *a fountain* (#4161). So, the point is that, just as our Heavenly Father able to dry up all sources of water for the wicked, so too is He able to freely give many sources of water to those who obey Him. That’s why verse 36 goes on to say that He *maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation*. In order to have a city (which is made up of many people) you **have** to have a good water source, *as well as* an abundant food supply. And good water sources not only provide fish for food, but also crops and pasture land that provide food for people. So, the Psalmist is giving us a comparison of what happens to those

who obey the Lord (YHVH) verse those who do not. Again, this is laid out in the ‘cursings’ and the blessings’ in Lev 26 and Deut 28. Further, the *Companion Bible* points out that verses 35-38 use a figure of speech called a *Polysyndeton* (apx 6, which is used also in Genesis 1) which emphasizes each item, which goes to make up *the fulness of blessing...*

Psalm 107

37 And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.

38 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

These verses speak of things that need good water sources to flourish. And it’s also what is needed to support a city. People *must* be able to sow fields, and plant vineyards (etc.), in order to be able to get a harvest! And the fields also must have water in order for grass to grow, which is what cattle (cows, sheep, goats) need to live on. The words ‘*suffereth not*’ are a figure of speech (*Tapeinosis*, apx 6) that simply means the Lord (YHVH) will *abundantly* multiply their cattle. Again, that takes having an appropriate (and consistent) water source for the fields (and crops) that cattle eat, whether that be by rain, irrigation or both. But we should not overlook the point that, even with a good water source (and rain ‘in due season’) it takes *work* to plant (and harvest) crops and vineyards (etc.). So, this also tells us that, so long as we do ‘our part’ to *work*, our Heavenly Father will do ‘His part’ in *blessing* our work... as long as we are *sincerely* striving to obey Him, as the ‘cursings and blessings’ of Deut 28 and Lev 26 point out!

Further, this fact is also true *spiritually*. For those who are too lazy to study God’s Word *for themselves*, will *not* find their ‘daily bread’ of truth (Mth 6:11) but will be famished, as Amos 8:11 speaks about [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/201>]. As Jesus said, *I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst* (John 6:35). So, it takes work on our part to read, study *and* meditate (think deeply) upon God’s Word, for *no one can do that for us*. Just as we must eat good physical food (and drink good, clean water) for it to benefit our physical body, so it is with our inner man. You can listen to teachers and pastors all you want, but if you don’t take (at least a little bit of) time to *spiritually* ‘eat’ God’s Word *for yourself* each day, you won’t obtain the kind of truth needed to cleanse, heal, and nourish *your* soul and spirit (inner man). And if you are fortunate to have a good teacher, you *still* need to check out what they say in God’s Word. That not only helps to convict you that what they said *really is* true, but it also helps you to *remember it* and to *understand it better*. As Heb 11:6 says, *without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. The words ‘**diligently seek**’ here mean *to search out*, i.e. (figuratively) *investigate, crave, demand*, and, (by Hebraism) *worship* (#1567). Therefore, diligently seeking our Heavenly Father, by studying His Word for yourself, truly is the ‘inward’ worship God really wants! As Jesus said in John 4:23-24: *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father **in spirit and in***

truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship him **in spirit and in truth**! So, **true** worship (which our Heavenly Father) is when we (in our heart and mind) **seek the truth**, which is God's Word (John 17:17)! And so, Paul's advice to Timothy still applies to us today: *study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing* [which means to dissect correctly, #3718] *the word of truth* (2 Tim 2:15). And that's why our Heavenly Father promises us spiritual blessings (peace of mind, joy of heart, etc.) when we *earnestly* seek, and obey, Him...

3 *Thou wilt keep him in **perfect peace**, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: **because he trusteth in thee**.*

4 *Trust ye in the **LORD** for ever: for in the **LORD JEHOVAH** is everlasting strength*:

Isa 26:3-4

17 *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the **LORD** **will** hear them, I the God of Israel **will not forsake** them.*

18 *I **will** open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: **I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water**.*

19 *I **will** plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:*

20 *That they may **see, and know, and consider, and understand together**, that the hand of the **LORD** **hath done this**, and the Holy One of Israel **hath created it**.*

Isa 41:17-20

3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and **God himself shall be with them, and be their God**.*

4 *And God **shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain**: for the former things are passed away.*

5 *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, **I make all things new**. And he said unto me, Write: for **these words are true and faithful**.*

6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely**.*

7 *He that overcometh **shall inherit all things**; and **I will be his God, and he shall be my son**.*

Rev 21:3-7

We'll pick this up in part 8...

AMEN.