

## THE WORLD ERUPTS...BUT I AM IN PRAYER

### **Psalm 109:1-4; Psalm 122; Psalm 107**

O God of my praise, do not be silent! <sup>2</sup> For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. <sup>3</sup> They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without cause. <sup>4</sup> In return for my love they act as my accusers; but I am *in* prayer. **Psalm 109:1-4 NASB**

... “and they have rewarded and laid upon me evil for good, and hatred for my love.”

...**Psalm 105 Amplified**

... “but I resort to prayer...” **Psalm 105 Amplified**

... “they repay my love with enmity, for my part I pray for them.” **R.K. Harrison**

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary <sup>3</sup> And gathered from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. <sup>4</sup> They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region; they did not find a way to an inhabited city. <sup>5</sup> *They were* hungry and thirsty; their soul fainted within them. <sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He delivered them out of their distresses. <sup>7</sup> He led them also by a straight way, to go to an inhabited city. <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! <sup>9</sup> For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good. **Psalm 107:1-9 NASB**

- Crying out to God (v4-9)
  - The ‘cry’ of the redeemed is one of gratitude for their deliverance. (v1-3)
    - His goodness
    - His unending loving kindness.
    - We have been redeemed from the hand of the adversary.
    - We have been gathered from all the scattered, captive and isolated effects of sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- The condition of those who exposed to ‘wandering’ in this world! (v4-9)

- Wandering the desert.
- No 'way' to an inhabited city.
- Hungry, thirsty.
- Their 'soul fainted' within them.

... "Their courage collapsed within them. **Smith and Goodspeed**

... "Their life was wasting away within them." **NASB**

- In their desperation they 'cried out to the Lord.' (v4-9)
  - The Lord answered. (v6-9)
  - He delivered them from their distresses.
  - He led them in a straight path.
  - He led them to an inhabited city...a city of habitation.
  - He wants us to be an 'inhabited city,' a city of habitation. A place where He lives in us and among us and a place He can bring 'wandering, hungry, thirsty people too!
  - He wants us to live 'inhabited lives', collectively and individually, so we can be part of the answer to the cry in people's hearts.
- Remember the baptism of Jesus and Noah on the ark...the dove is looking for a place to dwell.
- God's answer to the cries of the distressed people is an inhabited city.
  - He led them to an inhabited city where He provided for them spirit, soul and body.
    - His loving kindness.
    - His wonders.
    - He feeds them physically and quenches their thirst.
    - He also revives their fainted souls, He heals their 'collapsed courage' and He restores their inner life that was wasting away.
      - How did He do that? He did it by the power of His Spirit (habitation) and by the spirit empowered inhabitants!

<sup>10</sup>There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, <sup>11</sup>because they had rebelled against the words of Go and spurned the counsel of the Most High <sup>12</sup>Therefore He humbled their heart with

labor; they stumbled and there was none to help. <sup>13</sup>Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses. <sup>14</sup>He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and broke their bands apart. <sup>15</sup>Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! <sup>16</sup>For He has shattered gates of bronze and cut bars of iron asunder. **Psalm 107:10-16 NASB**

- He also helps those who dwell in darkness. (**Psalm 107:10-18**)
  - The saga of darkness and life in the shadows.
    - People 'imprisoned' by a life-style of bad decisions.
    - The misery of addictions, habits, rebellion, and cyclical sin and rejecting God and His Word.
      - How do you get out of this kind of disaster?
- They cried out to the Lord in their trouble.
  - He heard their cry and saved them of their distress. (**v13-16**)
  - He transferred them from the darkness and death of the enemy into the light of life.
  - He broke the chains and bonds that held them captive.
  - His wondrous, miraculous love set them free. (The power of His love and wonders of His might.)
  - He shattered the gates of bronze.
    - These are not the 'normal' gates of wood (natural material).
    - These gates were forged by the hands of men to be unbreakable - much stronger than the 'natural material.'
    - This symbolizes the power of darkness and the intrusion of the enemy to keep people in bondage and to keep 'help' restrained from reaching them.
    - Darkness fuels this kind of barrier building...cocaine, alcohol, heroin, gambling, sexual addictions, human trafficking. It takes the power of God and the touch of God's people to tear them down.

<sup>17</sup>Fools, because of their rebellious way, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

<sup>18</sup> Their soul abhorred all kinds of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He saved them out of their

distresses. <sup>20</sup> He sent His word and healed them, and delivered *them* from

their destructions. <sup>21</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for

His wonders to the sons of men! <sup>22</sup> Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,

and tell of His works with joyful singing. **Psalm 107:17-22 NASB**

- He heals people who are suffering sickness in their bodies and their souls, minds, and emotions.
  - People could not eat, they needed food but it made them sick. Sin and rebellion had caused people to be afflicted in every way. (v17-22)
  - These people cried out to the Lord, and He delivered them.
  - He saved them out of their trouble, He sent His Word and healed them.
  - These people rebelled and transgressed against the Lord and His Word, and in His mercy, He sends His Word to heal them. (see **Psalm 147:15**)
  - He sends His Word, often through those that He 'inhabits' to bring healing.
  - He healed them and delivered them from their destructions...literally He delivered them from their 'pits!'

<sup>33</sup> He changes rivers into a wilderness and springs of water into a thirsty ground;

<sup>34</sup> A fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it.

<sup>35</sup> He changes a wilderness into a pool of water and a dry land into springs of water;

<sup>36</sup> And there He makes the hungry to dwell, so that they may establish an inhabited city,

<sup>37</sup> And sow fields and plant vineyards, and gather a fruitful harvest. <sup>38</sup> Also He blesses them and they multiply greatly, and He does not let their cattle decrease.

<sup>39</sup> When they are diminished and bowed down through oppression, misery and sorrow, <sup>40</sup> He pours contempt upon princes and makes them wander in a pathless waste.

<sup>41</sup> But He sets the needy securely on high away from affliction, and makes *his* families like a flock. <sup>42</sup> The upright see it and are glad; but all unrighteousness shuts its mouth. <sup>43</sup> Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things, and consider the lovingkindnesses of the LORD. **Psalm 107:33-43 NASB**

- He does all this by getting people into an inhabited city.

- The inhabited city (people of God) is a place of transformational increase. (v33-43)
- He takes what some have depended on and 'shuts it down' due to the wickedness that dwells there...a different type of 'habitation.'
- But He moves and transforms barren and 'dry' circumstances for the 'hungry' so He can establish an inhabited city, a dwelling place for them. (See **Ephesians 2:17-22**)
- He brings life, health, growth, and multiplication...increase and stops the decrease that had drained their vitality.
- He puts people who trust Him securely on high...away from affliction and He puts people in relationships and community where they can learn to give and receive His goodness.
- The result of His people being an 'inhabited city' are deliverance and peace for those they touch and gladness for their own hearts.
- It is wisdom to see His loving kindness in all this and to partner with Him to be a person where He dwells and to be a people where His presence is known and honored.