

A Brief History of the Sovereignty of God: Psalm 105

- 1 **Give thanks** to the Lord and **proclaim his greatness**. **Let the whole world know** what he has done.
- 2 **Sing to him**; yes, sing his praises. **Tell everyone** about his wonderful deeds.
- 3 **Exult** (*halal*) in his holy name; **rejoice**, you who worship the Lord.
Halal.....admire, speak well of (eulogize), make known, praise, boast, celebrate, commend.
- 4 **Search for the Lord** and for his strength; continually **seek him**.
- 5 **Remember** the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given,
- 6 you children of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- 7 He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land.
- 8 He **always stands by his covenant**—the commitment he made to a thousand generations.
- 9 This is the covenant **he made** with Abraham and the oath **he swore** to Isaac.
- 10 **He confirmed** it to Jacob as a decree, and to the people of Israel as a never-ending covenant:
- 11 “I will give you the land of Canaan as your special possession.”
- 12 He said this when they were few in number, a tiny group of strangers in Canaan.
- 13 They wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another.
- 14 Yet **he did not let anyone oppress them**. **He warned** kings on their behalf:
- 15 “Do not touch my chosen people, and do not hurt my prophets.”
- 16 **He called for a famine** on the land of Canaan, cutting off its food supply.
- 17 Then **he sent someone** to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
- 18 They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar.
- 19 Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, **the Lord tested** Joseph’s character.
- 20 Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free; the ruler of the nation opened his prison door.
- 21 Joseph was put in charge of all the king’s household; he became ruler over all the king’s possessions.
- 22 He could instruct the king’s aides as he pleases and teach the king’s advisers (*exercise absolute control*)
- 23 Then Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.
- 24 And **the Lord multiplied** the people of Israel until they became too mighty for their enemies.
- 25 Then **he turned the Egyptians** against the Israelites, and they plotted against the Lord’s servants.
- 26 But **the Lord sent** his servant Moses, along with Aaron, whom **he had chosen**.
- 27 They performed miraculous signs among the Egyptians, and wonders in the land of Ham.
- 28 **The Lord blanketed** Egypt in darkness, for they had defied his commands to let his people go.
- 29 **He turned their water into blood**, poisoning all the fish.
- 30 Then frogs overran the land and even invaded the king’s bedrooms.
- 31 When **the Lord spoke**, flies descended on the Egyptians, and gnats swarmed across Egypt.
- 32 **He sent** them hail instead of rain, and lightning flashed over the land.
- 33 **He ruined** their grapevines and fig trees **and shattered** all the trees.
- 34 **He spoke**, and hordes of locusts came—young locusts beyond number.
- 35 They ate up everything green in the land, destroying all the crops in their fields.
- 36 **Then he killed** the oldest son in each Egyptian home, the pride and joy of each family.
- 37 **The Lord brought his people** out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad when they were gone, for they feared them greatly.
- 39 The Lord **spread a cloud above them** as a covering and **gave them** a great fire to light the darkness.
- 40 They asked for meat, and **he sent** them quail; **he satisfied their hunger** with manna—bread from heaven.
- 41 **He split open** a rock, and water gushed out to form a river through the dry wasteland.
- 42 For **he remembered** his sacred promise to his servant Abraham.
- 43 So **he brought his people out** of Egypt with joy, his chosen ones with rejoicing.
- 44 **He gave his people** the lands of pagan nations, and they harvested crops that others had planted.
- 45 All this happened **so they would follow** his decrees and **obey** his instructions. *Praise the Lord!*

LESSONS From Psalm 105

- God is sovereign in all things/did it all

Psalm 103:19 The Lord has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything.

- God exercises His sovereignty (absolute authority) together with His grace (unearned gift)

1 Corinthians 15:10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

Ephesians 1:5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.[a]

- In His sovereign grace, God has chosen us and has His hand upon us, even through our trials.

- Because of God's sovereign grace and His faithfulness to His covenants, we can TRUST him even in the dark times.

Romans 9: 14 Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not!

15 For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."

16 So it is God **who decides** to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

17 For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth."

18 So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen.

19 Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?"

20 No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"

21 When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?

22 In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.

23 He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.

- God's sovereign purposes are completed in His timetable, not ours.

- God's sovereign purposes include his creating or using trials to refine us.

- God shows His strength in our weakness so ALL of the glory/credit goes to Him,

- God WILL accomplish His sovereign purpose and bring us safely HOME.

APPLICATION

OUR RESPONSE to God's sovereign grace toward us should be to:

Thank Him

Trust Him

Praise Him

Obey Him

Tell others about Him/make Him known to others