

Psalm 105

God is behind the scenes of world events; using good and bad events to build up his family of believers. This chapter has a few history lessons in it. Remember that God is always making our life better. The bible is full of strange living conditions and events which had unforeseen effects. Our faith development is a long-term and gradual process. We have to be ready to receive direction to find a better life. It can be right in front of our face our whole life...but we need to have a heart ready for something better. The ancient Hebrews drug their fleshly nature through the desert for 40 years; and they made no progress at all. They appointed Moses to deal with *all of the God stuff*; so that they could live without being too tied to God. They just paid their minimal tithes and dues and tolls, in an impersonal way. In the end; they were judged as having no faith at all. Either we want to get to know God; or we want to bypass all of that quiet time and relationship development.

“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness. Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ” (Hebrews 3:7-11)

It's hard to know if your children are truly in the faith. A day comes when they are no longer under your control. Will they invest their free time to commune with God; or will they minimize that aspect of their life? You could call that fake fruit; because it does not remain.

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (1 John 2:19)

We have the benefit of recorded church history, and the life of the patriarchs. The Old Testament is a word picture of long-term faith development.

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

Read Psalm 105:1-6: Mankind has a tragic history of going away from God; and living in their own depressing and unfruitful rut for years. God has an escape plan for each of us to break free, into a more abundant life.

For starters, a fulfilling life is more about God than it is about us. We have to be willing to re-define ourselves. Can we have happiness in glorifying God and helping others? Spiritual health begins with the process of seeking God in his word and prayer; and then communicating your findings.

The psalmist begins by telling us all to publish God's word. What does that mean? Are we supposed to deliver bibles, or to post bible verse billboards? Verse 1 tells us to make known his deeds among the people. The old French word for *publish* comes from making information *public knowledge*. The Blue Letter Bible is a good study tool to look up the original word in its context of the original Hebrew language. Below is the word used to publish or make known God's word:

Strong's H3045 - *yāda'*

Strong's Definitions

YĀDA' *yāda'*, yaw-dah'; instruction, :—acknowledge, to become acquainted with, advise, answer, be aware,, declare, discover, to make known, to give knowledge, make sense of, learn, perceive, privy to, skilful, to show someone, to skillfully describe, teach, tell, to understand

God wants to be known by men. To glorify God is to reveal his characteristics and features to others. He has left us a good trail of breadcrumbs to those who want to learn about him. He has left his fingerprints and patterns all over his creation. The atom and the universe look pretty similar. Every universe has a central body (a sun or dominant star) with orbiting planets and moons. Similarly, the atom has a nucleus; with orbiting electrons. All life on earth is dependent on rain from heaven. The bible opens with the fact that God made all things, through Jesus.

...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:14-17)

People think that reading the bible once tells you the whole story about God. There are stories and images within each story; that lead to more doorways of enlightenment. In this world, you can learn about things in general, and then just pick up small remaining details over time. The bible is the opposite. The scriptures become bigger, with more information the more we read it. God continues to unlock our minds to his character and his heart as we demonstrate our commitment level to seek his face and his heart. There are mysteries he wants us to see. Getting to know God is not an intellectual pursuit as much as it has to be our heart's desire that is carried out. We have all *put in our time* to

read the bible with minimal results. We have also had times of revelation and *inspired moments*. It has to do with our heart. Are we trying to just get through the material; or are we trying to encounter God in a more personal way?

To read the bible like a newspaper is not very transforming. We need to study every verse like a detective studies a murder scene. Once we make the time commitment to stop what we are doing to wait on the LORD; so that the downloads from the Holy Spirit can begin. If our goal is to be done with it, and move on...then our added enlightenment will fade.

What is the difference between merely *knowing* the truth and *publishing* the truth? To tell others, we first need to understand more about God ourselves. We cannot share what we have not learned. The scriptures tell us that our strength as christians is in his presence. Obedience and attention on our part results in strength and joy. When we minimize our contact with God we become disoriented and depressed. God's word (the bible) is like a diary. We need to read the diary to understand more about the author.

Ezra was an example of a scribe who communicated the scriptures to the people; and then broke it down so that they could understand them.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God.8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8)

We are also instructed to sing psalms of praise. Why? Isn't knowing it or talking about it good enough? A narration or history lesson is a more distant relationship. The closer we get to God, the more joy and motivation and purpose that we find coursing through our bodies. Rejoicing comes to those who seek the LORD. We might not quite feel the motivation to raise our praise level. That is probably because we are too far away. *God is calling us in closer*; where we can hear the music and see the sights, and feel his presence. When we have a close encounter with God; we have plenty to say and praise about. Probably the easiest place to start is to begin making an inventory of what God has done for me lately.

Read Psalm 105:7-12: God has not forgotten to keep his promises. We can set our clock to his word. It has never failed. The children of Israel have received many promises. God also wants to bring us into the story; so that we can share what he has done for us too.

Many archaeologists and scientists have tried to disprove the accuracy of the bible. They have all failed, to their own shame. They have tried to take exclusive biblical accounts of cities, leaders or events that seem to have no collaboration; and use their lack of evidence to disprove biblical accuracy. They always fall on their face; when new physical evidence is discovered.

Read Psalm 105: 13-25: God was behind the scenes during the times of the patriarchs of Israel. Abraham broke away from his idolatrous family in Ur of the Chaldees; and traveled a long way to find a city of God. Abraham's journey would be used instructively as our model for our faith journey on earth. Isaac was a supernatural son of God's promise; who was protected as he lived amongst the inhospitable Canaanites. Jacob is our example of a worldly man who became a godly man. He is our typical believer; and represents a long-term project and gradual shaping process. All of his setbacks and poor decisions were all used to bring him to the place of full surrender to God. Joseph is a representation of Jesus in some respects. He was rejected by his own people; and sold out. He was faithful to his position and was despised for envy. He was treated badly; but did not record a complaint. He would forgive those who turned their backs on him; and gladly save their lives. The 400 years of Egyptian slavery would be where the nation of Israel was born. They were divinely kept away from the Canaanites; who were destined to be destroyed.

There are two ways to look at things. You could ask why faithful Abraham traveled so far in faith to wind up in the middle of a terrible famine? That does not seem to be a just reward for his journey of faith. Having his wife taken away by Pharaoh seems to be a real slap in the face; and a loss of his most-prized possession. His enduring of Lot's self serving ways; which put his own family at risk, seems to be more of a curse than a blessing. Being asked to sacrifice his long-awaited son seems to be an unthinkable and inappropriate request by God. In the end, each one of these life illustrations turned from a curse to a blessing. Abraham is held out as an example, because he did not let his logic and desire deter him from continuing forward with God. There is a far bigger picture that we are part of. We squirm and fuss and stomp our feet in protest when life seems to be going against us. In reality it is all to our benefit. Like a sailing ship; our fastest path forward is almost directly into strong headwinds.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Read Psalm 105:26-41: God hides beyond the commonplace things in our lives. He camouflages miracles with normal and explainable turns of events. God can use rejects of society; and make them seem like gods. God uses his promises to his friends to carry out all kinds of mysterious and worldwide phenomena. No act is too big to fulfill his promises to us. Moses was not comfortable with public speaking. Aaron was known to make serious compromises. Even so, God decided to use them for a purpose greater than themselves.

So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My [a]armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.” Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the Lord commanded them, so they did. And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:1-6)

Read Psalm 105:42-45: You could write a world history book from the perspective of God dealing with his people. Israel is called a world clock at times. The rise and fall of the great world powers: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome; all are direct results of God’s dealings with Israel. Cesar’s first world tax was to get Joseph and Mary to move to Bethlehem. The Hebrew slaves in Egypt were used to wipe out one of the world’s most powerful military forces. Joshua marched through Canaan and had an unprecedented 13 victories in battle.

This is a scary and out of control world that threatens all men; but that is only one way to see it. God is in absolute control over every tiny thing, to direct and protect and develop his people.