

## Psalms 105

**Psalms 105:2-4 Sing to Him. Sing Psalms to Him. Talk of all His wondrous works. Glory in His holy name. Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore.**

Scroggie entitles this Psalm, *How the Lord treated Israel*. It recounts the history of God's care of His people from the promises made to Abraham to the possession of the promised land. The value of the Psalm is that God did all that is here celebrated and His every act on behalf of His people is an act on behalf of all of His people. We have as much reason to celebrate this history as ancient Israel did. We can also develop a memory of our own journey so that we can exercise the suggestion of the Psalm and have the discipline to remember and to celebrate our experience of His grace.

Israel's story begins with the promises that God made to Abraham and that He repeated to Isaac and to Jacob. This covenant was the oath of God to the patriarchs that He would give them the land of Canaan. He made this promise when the land was vast and the people so very, very few. They were nomads within and at times even outside the land but at every

step God kept them safe and even rebuked kings on their behalf.

He sent a famine but even before that He sent Joseph into Egypt to prepare Jacob's arrival. To do this, God took the slave and prisoner, Joseph and made him 2nd only to pharaoh in the kingdom. Egypt served as a shield over Israel and they increased greatly and became strong. Then the Egyptians began to hate Israel and they took advantage of them so God sent Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt.

God did signs in Egypt. He sent darkness. He turned their waters into blood and killed their fish. The frogs came and could not be kept out of even the king's bedroom. Swarms of flies and lice were sent. Hail came with fire destroying vine and tree. The locusts came without number and ate up all the vegetation in the land and devoured the fruit of their ground. The last of the plagues brought the death of the firstborn in every household.

So Israel came out of Egypt and they came out with silver and gold. The Egyptians were glad to see them go for they had become very afraid of the people of Israel.

So the journey to the land began and God gave them a cloud to cover them in the day

and fire to light the night. He fed them with the bread of heaven and when they asked, He provided quail for meat. For their thirst, He opened the rock so that water gushed out of it and it ran in dry places like a river.

This was all a testament to the promises that God had made to the patriarchs and indeed, He kept them. "He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness. He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, and they inherited the labor of the nations.

God had a purpose in all of this and the Psalm gives final witness to that purpose, "That they might observe His statutes and keep His laws." This was a very suggestive way to close the Psalm since every reader of the Psalm will be only too aware of how Israel failed to fulfill this purpose. This leads to the next Psalm which Scroggie entitles, *How Israel treated the Lord*.

The beauty of the story is to be in the story. All of God's people are in the story. It is a story that is told by those who know the end from the beginning and so thanksgiving and praise are poured out toward the Lord. God's promises to His people are celebrated and the means that he has used to keep them is recounted. This brings to our attention His purpose and our responsibility