

Psalms 106

Psalms 106:4-6 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation, that I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, that I may glory with Your inheritance. We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

This Psalm is a sequel to Psalms 105. Scroggie gives Psalms 105 the title, *How the Lord treated Israel*, and to Psalms 106 the title, *How Israel treated the Lord*. The subject matter of the psalm is at many points tragic but the tone is upbeat. Throughout there is confidence in God's goodwill for His people.

The psalm begins and ends with praise exhortation and prayer (vv. 1-6 and 47,48) In between there is a description of Israel's sins in Egypt, in the wilderness, and in the land and God's response to them.

Scroggie identifies 9 sins: Unbelief (7), discontent (13,14), envy (16), idolatry (19-22), rebellion (24,25), lust (28-29a), murmuring (32a), disobedience (34-39), and provocation (43b). God responds to these sins with judgment and then after Israel's

repentance with deliverance. The review of this history brings into view the consistency of God's purpose and a confidence that can be applied to our times, should we live in right relationship with the Lord.

The beauty of God's patient endurance and singleness of purpose in the nurturing of His people is in the details.

Notice the identity that God gave to His people but that was lost by them in the years of their slavery. They suffered for generations as if they were not the people of God. But He did not forget them but brought them out of Egypt and from the chains of Pharaoh.

But no sooner had they escaped Egypt and all of the slavery and death it had been to them they almost immediately forgot all that God had done for them as they journeyed through the wilderness. The record of their wilderness failures is recorded here and by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10. Paul sees their story as a warning to us now in that we are tempted now in the same ways that Israel was tempted then.

Finally, when they entered the land of promise their obedience was incomplete. They did not drive all of the Canaanites out of the land and as a result, they mixed with

them and soon were engaged in idolatry with them. This was a betrayal of the God who had given them life as a nation and was the one who had given them all they had. Their faithlessness resulted in God's turning them over to their enemies and to many defeats and captivities. But when they turned to God with repentance He delivered them time and again and gave them chance after chance to make things right.

The perspective of the psalm is that God will now do as He has done before. "Save us O Lord our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! and let all the people say, Amen!"