

Let it rain praise

Psalm 107
"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His faithful love endures forever. Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies. For he has gathered the exiles from many lands, from east and west, from north and south..."

Psalm 107
Aren't there just times when you gotta praise?

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- Let the redeemed of the Lord say so

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- Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
- His love lasts forever
- If God is for us, then who can stand against?
- He calls all people to Himself and is always good

Psalm 107
"Some wandered in the wilderness, lost and homeless. Hungry and thirsty, they nearly died. "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress. He led them straight to safety, to a city where they could live.
Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.
For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things..."

Psalm 107
• He rescues those who cry out to Him

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- Their response to His rescue is to be praise
 - Not just "thank You for giving me food and drink"
 - "Thank you for allowing me to become hungry and thirsty..."
 - "God used my misery to bring me to Himself"
 - Testimony of the redeemed

Psalm 107

"Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery. They rebelled against the words of God, scorning the counsel of the Most High. That is why He broke them with hard labor; they fell, and no one was there to help them. "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom; He snapped their chains. Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. For he broke down their prison gates of bronze; he cut apart their bars of iron..."

Psalm 107

- He sets free those who call out to Him in the midst of their captivity

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 - The combination of their knowledge of Him and the consequences cause them to cry out
- Their response to their freedom is to praise Him

Psalm 107

"Some were fools; they rebelled and suffered for their sins. They couldn't stand the thought of food, and they were knocking on death's door. "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death.

Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and sing joyfully about his glorious acts..."

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- He saves those who turn their hearts back to Him

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 - Poverty and need may be result of foolishness
 - Poverty and need may be result of pride
 - Poverty and need may be the means God allows to bring us to point of willingness to repent and receive forgiveness, grace and mercy

Psalm 107

"Some went off to sea in ships, plying the trade routes of the world. They, too, observed the Lord's power in action, His impressive works on the deepest seas. He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged against the depths; the sailors cringed in terror. They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end. "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. What a blessing was that stillness as He brought them safely into harbor!

Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.
Let them exalt Him publicly before the congregation and before the leaders of the nation..."

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"Sometimes God calms the storm...
And sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms His child in the midst of it..."

Psalm 107

- Sometimes it is the storms around us that we need rescuing from

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 - Maybe we've "sailed into it"
 - Maybe someone has taken us into it
 - Regardless, we reach a point where the difference between the roar of the world and the stillness of His presence becomes acutely clear
 - Finally, we want His presence more than the world

Psalm 107

"He changes rivers into deserts, and springs of water into dry, thirsty land. He turns the fruitful land into salty wastelands, because of the wickedness of those who live there. But He also turns deserts into pools of water, the dry land into springs of water. He brings the hungry to settle there and to build their cities. They sow their fields, plant their vineyards, and harvest their bumper crops. How he blesses them! They raise large families there, and their herds of livestock increase..."

Psalm 107

"When they decrease in number and become impoverished through oppression, trouble, and sorrow, the Lord pours contempt on their princes, causing them to wander in trackless wastelands. But He rescues the poor from trouble and increases their families like flocks of sheep.

The godly will see these things and be glad, while the wicked are struck silent."

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 - He uses these times to bless His people
 - He also uses these times to frustrate leaders who are not following Him
 - Their inability to correct the problem is revealed
 - In spite of their inability, God still takes care of His people
 - And their response is to be a testimony to His goodness

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"Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the Lord."

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Who is testifying of the goodness of God?

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Who is grateful for the storms, the drought, the trials
and the bondage that bring us close to God?

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Who among us is wise?