

1. When looking at the psalm we can see a pattern that is used to give not only a rhythm of pattern but a reinforcement of God's power.
2. There is a declaration of God's goodness that is followed by a difficulty or trial that comes upon God's people, then there is a crying out to God (vs. 6, 13, 19, 28), God delivers, then another declaration of God's goodness (vs. 8, 15, 21, 31)
3. What seems to be unique in the pattern are the differing kinds of trouble that are faced.

Psalms 107:1-43

1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

- Why is gratitude important as part of our worship?

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

- What does it mean to be redeemed?
- What is significant about hearing from these kinds of people?
- How does this substantiate the claim of God being good?
- Who is our enemy?
 - Eph 2:2-3 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

- Can we limit God based on where we are at?

"You don't know just how far
 Away from home I've been"
 She said, as she looked into my eyes
 "Could it be I've strayed beyond
 Mercy's outstretched hand
 And now His grace no longer stoops
 To hear my cry
 You see, I just wanna know

I've heard His love is patient
 That He always hears a prayer
 And that His love will follow you
 Despite the miles
 My best years of life I wasted
 Why would He even really care

Tell me how far will He go
 Will He still reach for me
 In spite of where I've been"
 And I told her

What have I to give
 That He would find worthwhile
 You see I just wanna know
 Tell me how far will He go

He'll do whatever, whatever it takes
 His grace reaches lower than your
 worst mistakes
 And His love will run farther
 Than you can run away, my friend
 He'll do whatever, whatever it takes
 He'll do whatever it takes

Will He still reach for me
 In spite of who I am
 Let me tell you

He'll just keep reaching
 Until He finds a way to bring you back
 Where you belong
 Come on back home

4 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary (living alone, having no company) way; they found no city to dwell in.

- What is missing that is a detriment?

- Community
- Security - city

5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

- Are these deprivations speaking only to the body? What in the verse indicates that there is more?

6 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

- When do the needy cry out to the Lord? Do they wait until the trial is manageable? Why or why not?

7 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

- What else did the Lord do in response to their cry?
- What is significant about the “kind” of way He led them?
- Where does this lead them?

8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

- Why would it be important for mankind to praise the Lord for His goodness?
- Rom 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- How does this give hope to the next generation? (wonderful works to the children of men)
 - How many children independently pick up their Bibles to read and seek God on their own?

9 For he satisfieth the longing (thirsty) soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

- What is significant about God's ability to satisfy and fill the soul?

- Psa 145:14-16 The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. 15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. 16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
- Jer 31:25 For I (God) have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.
- Isa 55:1-3 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.
- Mat 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- Isn't it interesting that since man becoming a living soul is dependent upon God and that the soul of man can only be sustained by God? In other words, God did not make us to be autonomous. We are made to be dependent. (Think Christ quoting Scripture in the wilderness!)

10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

- Why would someone sit in darkness? [kids]
- What "shadow of death" mean? [Looming risk or outcome]
- What is the condition of their bondage?
 - Isa 9:1-2 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned (despised, spurned, [contempt]) the counsel of the most High:

- Contempt – the act of despising. The idea of contemned is to reject with disdain.
- What is the explanation for why they are in bondage?

- Pro 5:22-23 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. 23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.
 - 1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.
 - Why is it important to understand Whose counsel is being rejected and why that it is critical?
 - Why would God want to rescue someone like that?
- 12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.
- Why is it important to know that God is involved with consequences of sin?
 - Hag 1:5-7 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
- 13 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.
- What does this say about God's character toward those who got themselves into trouble?
 - Eze 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
- 14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.
- How would deliverance be different if God merely showed the way out versus bringing them out? Who would get the glory?
 - What is the difference between breaking
- 15 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- What would this kind of praise look like coming from the individuals rescued from themselves?
 - How might this encourage dependence upon God?
- 16 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.
- 17 Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.
- 18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.
- 20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
- 21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- 22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.
- 23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
- 24 These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.
- 25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.
- 26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.
28 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.
29 He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.
30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.
31 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
32 Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.
33 He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground;
34 A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.
35 He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.
36 And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation;
37 And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.
38 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.
39 Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.
40 He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.
41 Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.
42 The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.
43 Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.