

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

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  
  
 What have I to give  
 That He would find worthwhile  
 You see I just wanna know  
 Tell me how far will He go  
  
 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 chains and unlocking chains?
  - Never to be incarcerated again!

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

- *Praise the Lord, for the chains that seems to bind you*  
*Serve only to remind you that they drop powerless behind you*  
*When you praise Him*  
*What would this kind of praise look like coming from the individuals rescued from themselves?*
- How might this encourage dependence upon God?
- Are there any who can testify this morning of how God has liberated you from bondage?

16 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

- What is the picture that is being painted about God's power?
  - Complete power over impossible circumstances!
  - Brass or bronze is symbolism of judgment for sin.
    - 2Ki 25:7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.
    - Num 21:8-9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

- Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
  - 2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- Consider also the veil that stood between man and God. Though the veil was not of brass, it kept man out from God, and, thus, separated from real freedom.
  - Mat 27:50-51 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;
  - Heb 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
- Why is communion in the order of bread then fruit of the vine?
  - Body needs to be broken first to allow the blood to be shed. The blood then washes away our sins.
  - Mat 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
  - 1Co 11:23-25 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup,

when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood:  
this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

- *Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;*  
***HE** tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!*
- He broke the gates of brass because He broke Himself by being sacrificed and taking the Father's judgment upon Himself!
- Iron is symbolic of bondage.
  - Jer 28:13-14 Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron. 14 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also.
  - Psa 105:17-18 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: 18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:
  - Isa 45:1-2 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:
  - Psa 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

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.