

# God's mercy demonstrated in the fate of individuals

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## Reading: Psalm 107

The first three verses of Psalm 107 are an introduction. Then there are sections on four groups of people;

1. people who are frantic and restless,
2. who are bound in slavery,
3. people who are discouraged and hopeless,
4. people who are hit by storms.

Finally in vv 33:43 the Psalmist speaks more generally of the way that God works in the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say this-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, <sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

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<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. <sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. <sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. <sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, <sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

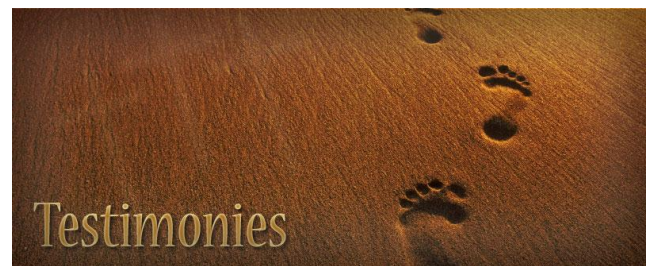


<sup>10</sup> Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, <sup>11</sup> for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. <sup>12</sup> So he subjected them to bitter labour; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. <sup>13</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

<sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains. <sup>15</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, <sup>16</sup> for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.



<sup>17</sup> Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. <sup>18</sup> They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. <sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. <sup>20</sup> He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. <sup>21</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. <sup>22</sup> Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.



<sup>23</sup> Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. <sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. <sup>25</sup> For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. <sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. <sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. <sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea

were hushed. <sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. <sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.



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<sup>33</sup> He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, <sup>34</sup> and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there. <sup>35</sup> He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; <sup>36</sup> there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. <sup>37</sup> They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; <sup>38</sup> he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish. <sup>39</sup> Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled by oppression, calamity and sorrow; <sup>40</sup> he who pours contempt on nobles made them wander in a trackless waste. <sup>41</sup> But he lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks. <sup>42</sup> The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths. <sup>43</sup> Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.



## Reading: Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that out of His glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide, and long, and high, and deep, is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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## Questions

These cases are listed in a special order. (*ibid. Hirsch*)

Are you reminded of Job? Jonah? Nineveh? Sennacherib? Anorexia?

Does this passage remind you of the Exodus or return from captivity?

- God taught and healed. - Jesus taught and healed.  
- Discuss His nature -

The earth's bounty? Global warming?

Tiger Woods fall from grace?

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## The Grace

Deuteronomy 11:26-30 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse - <sup>27</sup> the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; <sup>28</sup> the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. <sup>29</sup> When the LORD your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

***The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen***

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