

This Psalm issues a call to glorify the LORD (Jehovah) through praise and thanksgiving. It gives some exhortations to seek the LORD (Jehovah) and to remember His marvelous work of the past. He has not left us without a substantial record of reasons to have faith in Him. The whole Old Testament history of the patriarchs of Israel points to His faithfulness to His people and His promises to them. Promises that were made once and for all to Abraham and renewed to his son Isaac and grandson Jacob continued to apply to them throughout their Old Testament history. These were His chosen people, chosen by pure grace for blessings undreamed of, unasked for, and undeserved. These blessings had been developed and planned from the foundation of the world, Matthew 13:35.

To implement His grace Jehovah appeared to Abram and called him to leave his homeland and go to an as yet unnamed place to be revealed after he started on his journey. Abram's faith in obedience opened the door to immense and continued blessing upon his descendants and indeed the whole human race. His faith is held up throughout scripture as an example for others to copy. He is called the father of the faithful and the friend of God. Gradually, throughout his life, God confided to him His plan for the redemption. Redemption of mankind and the whole universe sunk in sin already in Abram's day, and so much deeper today.

This Psalm then calls to mind the various events and incidents in the history of Abram and his descendants that demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises in their history. We read of them more fully in Genesis and the other five books of Moses. The highlights of that history given in this Psalm are what God wants the singers and hearers to focus upon.

David prepared an inspirational memorial song for a very special event which took place in David's life. It was in celebration of his bringing the Ark of God into Jerusalem after he became the second king of Israel.

1Chronicles 16:7 Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren..

Parts of that song are included in Psalm 105, 96 (previously studied) and 106. 1Chronicles 16:8-22 is Psalm 105:8-22, 1Chronicles 16:23-33 is Psalm 96; and 1Chronicles 16:34-36 is verse 1,47 and 48 of Psalm 106. The story is given in 2Kings 6 and 2Chronicles 15 & 16. The rest of Psalm 105 is not found in other passages of scripture.

Perhaps compilers intended Psalm 105 to be used as part of a poetic lesson book for the people of Israel to learn their heritage by singing it. Christian hymn books contain "Faith of our Fathers" and Psalm 105 and others could be called that as well. While singing it the descendants of Jacob can reflect upon the God of their fathers and His faithfulness toward the Patriarchs (fathers) and His covenant with Abram. Yet even Abram, Isaac and Jacob

failed in faithfulness to the promises they had been given. While they failed, God remained faithful. He protected them and provided for them for years as aliens in the foreign land they had been promised would be theirs. Then God triggered a famine in Canaan and sent Jacob and his sons into Egypt where they found Joseph, the missing son providently sent ahead, waiting to bless and care for them. But God later allowed them to be enslaved after Joseph died so that He could display His almighty power to bring about their safe release. Through God's works of power they escaped from bondage in Egypt, while looting that nation and enriching themselves in the process. Yet no mention is made of their persistent unbelief recorded elsewhere. The Psalm ends with the Children of Israel entering the Promised Land, conquering it and taking over the homes and crops of the displaced occupants. See Joshua 5 where they ate the old corn of the land. Their forty years wandering (and dying) in the wilderness is not even mentioned here. God's faithfulness to His covenant 1000 years earlier with Abram is the subject. What an encouragement as they began life under a godly king in the promised land 600 years after they had first entered it. Although believers today do not inherit that land as its intended occupants, we will reign over it with great David's greater Son. Romans 9 - 11 and many other scriptures assure us God hasn't defaulted on His covenant made with Abram and his descendants about 4000 years ago. Rejoice in His faithfulness, His power and His longsuffering, for He is our God too.

We might note some interesting highlights of the Psalm.

8. "He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a **thousand generations**" (20,000 years +/-, essentially forever.)

14. "He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; 15 Saying, Touch not mine **anointed**, and do my **prophets** no harm." They were God's chosen, his prophets, not mere wandering refugees.

17. "He sent a man before them, even Joseph," God is in charge no matter what it seems like. Joseph's suffering patience points to Christ's suffering and eventual glorification. It also gives us patience in life's troubles and long suffering awaiting the Rapture.

39. "He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night." Not only did the cloud hide Jehovah within, and lead them through the wilderness, it shaded them from the heat of the sun. The New Jerusalem coming down from heaven will shade Israel during the Millennial reign of Christ. See Psalm 121:6; Isaiah 49:10; 60:19.

44. "And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labor of the people." See Joshua 5:11,12.

45. "That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the LORD." This was not a condition on His covenant but an expected response to such grace.