

PSALM 106



GOD, MY EXCEEDING JOY
A JOYFUL JOURNEY THRU THE PSALMS

THE FORGIVING GOD – January 22 and 29, 2023

I. GENRE: Song of _____ with Penitential Remembrance

- A. Ps 106 contains elements found in different kinds of psalms including praise, thanks, petition, and lament. Much of the song sounds like a penitential _____ (vv. 6-47).
- B. Part of the song has been borrowed from elsewhere (vv. 1 and 46-47 are by David; see below), so the song may be compiled from a few different kinds of songs.
- C. All said, the overall form of the psalm is a song of praise.
 - 1. It opens and closes with calls for praise (vv. 1-2, 48), and contains a cause for praise (vv. 6-46).
 - 2. As with Pss 104 and 105, the cause for praise is found in a lengthy meditation. In Ps 106 the focus is on Israel's unfaithfulness to her merciful God (vv. 6-46).
 - 3. The psalmist speaks for congregation in confessing the sins of their fathers thru the centuries.
- D. Ps 106 is often referred to as a Song of _____ because of its lengthy recounting of Israel's history. Other historical remembrance psalms include Pss 78, 105, 135, 136.

II. SETTING

A. AUTHOR & BACKGROUND

- 1. Verses 1b and 47-48 are found almost word-for-word in another song credited to _____. **1 Chr. 16:34, 35-36.**
 - a. In 1 Chron 16 David sings a celebration for the ark's installation in Jerusalem in 1003 BC.
 - b. David's great song spawned several psalms including parts of Pss 96, 105, 106, and 136.

- 2. The final form of the psalm appears to be from the time of the Babylonian _____ (c. 586-539 BC).
- 3. The wording of the Davidic story has been _____ by the final composer of Ps 106.
 - a. The Chronicler declares at the end of David's song, "Then all the people said, 'Amen,' and praised the LORD" (1 Chron 16:36c). Ps 106:48 modifies this to, "And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the LORD!"
 - b. The final phrase in the v. 48 is the single Hebrew word *Hallelujah*. It is different in form than the "praise the Lord" in 1 Chron 16. The term *Hallelujah* only appears in orphan psalms which appear to be written near the end of the OT era.
- 4. The author of Ps 106 found David's words from 1003 BC to be prophetic of his own time in the 500's BC.
 - a. David saw the arrival of the ark into Zion as a continuation of the Lord's redemption of Israel.
 - b. But David knew there would be trouble in the years and centuries ahead. What he did not know was that the consequences of the nation's sins (vv. 40-43; 47) would culminate in the Babylonian exile 500 years later.

B. PLACEMENT

- 1. Ps 106 concludes _____ (90-106) of the Psalms.
 - a. From Ps 103-106, each praise psalm gets progressively longer, creating a crescendo of praise
 - b. Beginning with Ps 104, each concludes with the term, "Hallelujah." (Ps 106 also begins with it.)
 - c. Pss 104-106 have been likened to a "little Torah" since they take the reader through creation (Ps 104) to the exodus (Ps 105) to Deuteronomy's warning about exile for unfaithfulness (Ps 106).

- 2. Pss 105 and 106 both recount Israel's history over a span of several centuries. They are often referred to as non-identical _____.
 - a. Ps 105 focuses on Yahweh's grace in keeping through the centuries the covenant He made with Abraham. There are almost no references to mankind's failures in response to the covenant.
 - b. Ps 106 focuses on Yahweh's grace in dealing with & _____ Israel for her many failures throughout her history. It highlights Israel's covenant unfaithfulness throughout the centuries.
 - c. Ps 106 shows that God remained faithful to the Abrahamic covenant (v. 45) even though Israel was unfaithful to the _____ Covenant (vv. 6-43).
- 3. The final compilers of the Psalms found David's doxology (v. 48 // 1 Chron 16:36) to be not only a fitting close to Psalm 106 but also to Book IV. Each "book" in the Psalms contains a doxology which not only closes out that psalm but also the previous collection of psalms.
 - a. Book I's close = Ps 41:13
 - b. Book II's close = Ps 72:18-20
 - c. Book III's close = Ps 89:52
 - d. Book V's close = Pss 145-150
- 4. The prayer of v. 47 is answered, in a _____ sense, in Psalm 107:3.

III. STRUCTURE

- A. The opening (vv. 1-5) couples calls to praise with other elements including a benediction on the righteous and a plea for deliverance (vv. 1-5). The benediction (v. 3) helps soften the blow of the recitation of sin and judgment that follows.
- B. The conclusion (vv. 47-48) includes a plea (v. 47) followed by a _____ & a closing "hallelujah" (v. 48).

- C. The long meditation (vv. 6-46) traces Israel's failures from their leaving Egypt thru to wilderness & on into Canaan.
1. Many events from the centuries are mentioned, often out of sequence.
 2. The two worst instances—Israel's worshipping of the golden calf (vv. 19-23) & the compromise at Baal-Peor (28-31)—are strategically placed near the middle.
 3. A good reference Bible will help the reader find the parallel passages in Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Judges, and 2 Kings.

IV. FEATURES & APPLICATION

- A. **Abrahamic** _____. Ps 106 explains that God's mercy to unfaithful Israel was due to His faithfulness to the Abrahamic covenant (v. 45). This echoes the theme of Ps 105 from a different angle
- B. **The Importance of** _____. Ps 106 may have been placed at the end of Book IV partly because of its reference to Moses (vv. 16, 23, 32). Moses is the author of Ps 90, the first book in Book IV. (In our English Bibles, Moses is not mentioned by name again until the book of Isaiah.)
- C. **Corporate Solidarity.** The psalmist owns up to his nation's past, recognizing that he and his generation are in solidarity for past generations. It is not true that the psalmist was guilty of the same sins (see vv. 3-4), but he gives voice for the rest of the nation by which to pray with contrition.
- D. **Massive** _____. The confession of historical sins forms a indictment against Israel. Paul uses the language of Ps 106 in his diatribe against humanity in Rom 1. What was true of Israel's sinfulness is true of all humanity in general.
- E. **An Impactful Song.** Phrases in Ps 106 appear in the NT.
1. Luke 1:71-72 borrows from vv. 10, 45.
 2. Romans 1 borrows wording or concepts from v. 20, 23, 32, 39, 40, 48.
 3. Revelation 19:4 mirrors the wording of v. 48cd

- F. **Change in Person:** The Lord is spoken to in vv. 4-7 and again in vv. 47-48. In between, God is spoken.
- G. **Unusual** _____. Most nations play up their strengths and victories and suppress their errors and losses when recounting their histories. But the Spirit leads the authors of Scripture to record the good and the bad.

1. Psalm 105 is somewhat like the history of Judah found in the books of Chronicles. The chronicler is led by the Spirit to play up the best of Israel's past to encourage emulating it.
2. Psalm 106 is somewhat like the history of Israel found in the books of Kings. The author is led by the Spirit to highlight the nation's errors which led her into judgment.

PSALM 106 <small>© M. Scott Bashor 2022</small>		PURPOSE: The psalmist calls the Hebrews to praise Yahweh for His mercies despite their centuries of covenant unfaithfulness. The people, now in the exile, reflect on their repeated rebellions and call on God to renew His mercies and restore them to Himself and their land.					Type: Song of Praise with Penitential Remembrance Author: Unknown (1 Chr 16:8 ascribes vv. 1, 47-48 to David) Date: Probably during the Babylonian exile, 586-539 BC Note: V. 48 concludes both the poem & Book 4 (Pss 90-106)	
OPENING PRAYERS OF PRAISE & PETITION vv. 1-5	CAUSE FOR PRAISE: PENITENTIAL REMEMBRANCE OF ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS & YAHWEH'S FAITHFUL JUDGMENTS & DELIVERANCES vv. 6-45							CLOSING PRAYERS OF PETITION & PRAISE vv. 47-48
Encouragements to Praise v. 1-3 Initial Hallelujah v. 1a Call to Thank Yahweh for Covenant Faithfulness v. 1b Exclamatory Question on Yahweh's Greatness v. 2 Benedictive Encouragement to Godly Worshipers v. 3 Petition for Personal & National Deliverance vv. 4-5 Plea for Deliverance vv. 4-5a Pledge of Praise v. 5b	Introductory Confession vv. 6-7a Solidarity with Israel's Ancient Errors v. 6 Israel's Forgetting of God's Wonders in Egypt v. 7a	Unfaithfulness at the Red Sea vv. 7b-12 Rebellion at the Red Sea v. 7b Deliverance thru the Red Sea vv. 8-11 <i>Mighty Deliverance for Yahweh's Name's Sake: The March thru the Water v. 8-9</i> <i>Deliverance from Their Enemies: The Drowning of the Egyptians vv. 10-11</i> Israel's Faith & Praise to Yahweh v. 12	Unfaithfulness in the Wilderness (Round One) vv. 13-18 Sinful Cravings for Food vv. 13-15 <i>Forgetting Yahweh's Provision, Demanding More vv. 13-14</i> <i>Their Request Answered with Food & Plague v. 15</i> Mutiny against Moses vv. 16-18 <i>Jealousy of Moses' Position v. 16</i> <i>Judgment of the Opened Earth & Blazing Fire vv. 17-18</i>	Apostacy at Mt. Horeb vv. 19-23 Erection of the Golden Calf vv. 19-22 <i>Creation of the Idol v. 19</i> <i>Token of Their Foolishness & Forgetfulness vv. 20-22</i> Yahweh's Judgment Averted by Moses' Intercession v. 23	Unfaithfulness in the Wilderness (Round Two) vv. 24-33 Refusal to Enter Canaan vv. 24-27 <i>Fueled by Their Unbelief vv. 24-25</i> <i>Yahweh's Oath to Destroy & Scatter the Unbelieving v. 26-27</i> Apostacy at Baal-Peor vv. 28-31 <i>Gross Idolatrous Worship v. 28</i> <i>Judgment Stopped by Phinehas' Intervention v. 29-31</i> Their Rebellion at Meribah & Moses' Failure vv. 32-33	Unfaithfulness in Canaan vv. 34-42 Litany of Israel's Compromises vv. 34-39 <i>Syncretism with Pagan People & Religion vv. 34-36</i> <i>The Awful Depth of Child Sacrifice vv. 37-38</i> <i>Summary of Their Unfaithfulness in the Land v. 39</i> Yahweh's Record of Retribution vv. 40-42 <i>The Kindling of His Righteous Anger v. 40</i> <i>Deliverance into the Hands of Their Enemies v. 41-42</i>	Concluding Summary: Cycles of Sin, Judgment, & Deliverance vv. 43-46 <i>Repeated Deliverance Followed by Repeated Rebellion v. 43</i> Yahweh's Covenantal Faithfulness to Relent & Deliver vv. 44-45 Yahweh's Compassion in Their Eventual Captivity v. 46	Closing Plea for Deliverance & Pledge of Thanks v. 47 Doxology v. 48abc Concluding Hallelujah v. 48d