

## HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER [PSALMS, BOOK 5, PART 1: PSALMS 107-118]

When the people of God returned to Israel after their Babylonian exile, there was a need for repair, reconciliation, and rejoicing. The city, the temple, and the people of God needed rebuilding and restoration. Before that could happen, though, the people of God needed to examine the reasons for their exile and the reasons for their return.

The first dozen psalms in Book 5 of the Psalms collection are a record of this examination and the results and responses. These psalms continue to serve as a guide for those who have been distant with the LORD and desire to draw close, and also for those who seek to develop a deeper, more loving relationship with the living God.

The opening songs in this book, Psalms 107-118, begin and end with the goodness and mercy, the absolutely faithful righteousness of the LORD our God, laying the foundation for a life of worship in devotion to the one true living God. Looking clearly at the world and its corruption, the people of Israel learned to fix their eyes and hopes upon the holiness of the LORD alone.

Join us as we explore how these psalms guide us in how we mature in our love for the LORD our God and our neighbours.

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### Deuteronomy 7

7The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. 11Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

## Ezra 5

1Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. 2So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

3At the same time Tattenai the governor of the region beyond the River and Shethar-Boznai and their companions came to them and spoke thus to them: “Who has commanded you to build this temple and finish this wall?” 4Then, accordingly, we told them the names of the men who were constructing this building. 5But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, so that they could not make them cease till a report could go to Darius. Then a written answer was returned concerning this matter.

## Ezra 6

19And the descendants of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 20For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were ritually clean. And they slaughtered the Passover lambs for all the descendants of the captivity, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. 21Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land in order to seek the LORD God of Israel. 22And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the Lord made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

## Ezra 7

1Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, 2the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, 3the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, 4the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, 5the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest— 6this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given.

The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. 7Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

8And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. 9On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

27Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, 28and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes.

So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

Ezra 8

15Now I gathered them by the river that flows to Ahava, and we camped there three days. And I looked among the people and the priests, and found none of the sons of Levi there. 16Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leaders; also for Joiarib and Elnathan, men of understanding. 17And I gave them a command for Iddo the chief man at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say to Iddo and his brethren the Nethinim at the place Casiphia—that they should bring us servants for the house of our God.

18Then, by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen men; 19and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty men; 20also of the Nethinim, whom David and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim. All of them were designated by name.

21Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. 22For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” 23So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

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28And I said to them, “You are holy to the LORD; the articles are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers. 29Watch and keep them until you weigh them before the leaders of the priests and the Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.”

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31Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. And the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambush along the road. 32So we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

33Now on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the articles were weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui, 34with the number and weight of everything. All the weight was written down at that time.

35The children of those who had been carried away captive, who had come from the captivity, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the Lord.

36And they delivered the king’s orders to the king’s satraps and the governors in the region beyond the River. So they gave support to the people and the house of God.

Psalm 107:1-20

- 1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
- 3 And gathered out of the lands,  
From the east and from the west,  
From the north and from the south.
- 4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way;  
They found no city to dwell in.
- 5 Hungry and thirsty,  
Their soul fainted in them.
- 6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
And He delivered them out of their distresses.
- 7 And He led them forth by the right way,  
That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.
  
- 8 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
- 9 For He satisfies the longing soul,  
And fills the hungry soul with goodness.
- 10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
Bound in affliction and irons—
- 11 Because they rebelled against the words of God,  
And despised the counsel of the Most High,
- 12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor;  
They fell down, and there was none to help.
- 13 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
And He saved them out of their distresses.
- 14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,  
And broke their chains in pieces.
  
- 15 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
- 16 For He has broken the gates of bronze,  
And cut the bars of iron in two.
- 17 Fools, because of their transgression,  
And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.
- 18 Their soul abhorred all manner of food,  
And they drew near to the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
And He saved them out of their distresses.
- 20 He sent His word and healed them,  
And delivered them from their destructions.

Psalm 107:21-30

- 21 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
- 22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
And declare His works with rejoicing.
- 23 Those who go down to the sea in ships,  
Who do business on great waters,
- 24 They see the works of the LORD,  
And His wonders in the deep.
- 25 For He commands and raises the stormy wind,  
Which lifts up the waves of the sea.
- 26 They mount up to the heavens,  
They go down again to the depths;  
Their soul melts 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 out to the LORD in their trouble,  
And He brings them out of their distresses.
- 29 He calms the storm,  
So that its waves are still.
- 30 Then they are glad because they are quiet;  
So He guides them to their desired haven.

Psalm 107:31-43

31 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!  
32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people,  
And praise Him in the company of the elders.  
33 He turns rivers into a wilderness,  
And the water-springs into dry ground;  
34 A fruitful land into barrenness,  
For the wickedness of those who dwell in it.  
35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water,  
And dry land into water-springs.  
36 There He makes the hungry dwell,  
That they may establish a city for a dwelling place,  
37 And sow fields and plant vineyards,  
That they may yield a fruitful harvest.  
38 He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly;  
And He does not let their cattle decrease.  
39 When they are diminished and brought low  
Through oppression, affliction, and sorrow,  
40 He pours contempt on princes,  
And causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way;  
41 Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction,  
And makes their families like a flock.  
42 The righteous see it and rejoice,  
And all iniquity stops its mouth.  
43 Whoever is wise will observe these things,  
And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

Psalm 108

*A Song. A Psalm of David.*

- 1 O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.
- 2 Awake, lute and harp!  
I will awaken the dawn.
- 3 I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples,  
And I will sing praises to You among the nations.
- 4 For Your mercy is great above the heavens,  
And Your truth reaches to the clouds.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
And Your glory above all the earth;
- 6 That Your beloved may be delivered,  
Save with Your right hand, and hear me.
- 7 God has spoken in His holiness:  
“I will rejoice;  
I will divide Shechem  
And measure out the Valley of Succoth.
- 8 Gilead is Mine; Manasseh is Mine;  
Ephraim also is the helmet for My head;  
Judah is My lawgiver.
- 9 Moab is My washpot;  
Over Edom I will cast My shoe;  
Over Philistia I will triumph.”
- 10 Who will bring me into the strong city?  
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 11 Is it not You, O God, who cast us off?  
And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies?
- 12 Give us help from trouble,  
For the help of man is useless.
- 13 Through God we will do valiantly,  
For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

Psalm 109:1-19

*To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.*

- 1 Do not keep silent,  
O God of my praise!
- 2 For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful  
Have opened against me;  
They have spoken against me with a lying tongue.
- 3 They have also surrounded me with words of hatred,  
And fought against me without a cause.
- 4 In return for my love they are my accusers,  
But I give myself to prayer.
  
- 5 Thus they have rewarded me evil for good,  
And hatred for my love.
- 6 Set a wicked man over him,  
And let an accuser stand at his right hand.
- 7 When he is judged, let him be found guilty,  
And let his prayer become sin.
- 8 Let his days be few,  
And let another take his office.
  
- 9 Let his children be fatherless,  
And his wife a widow.
- 10 Let his children continually be vagabonds, and beg;  
Let them seek their bread also from their desolate places.
- 11 Let the creditor seize all that he has,  
And let strangers plunder his labour.
- 12 Let there be none to extend mercy to him,  
Nor let there be any to favour his fatherless children.
- 13 Let his posterity be cut off,  
And in the generation following let their name be blotted out.
  
- 14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD,  
And let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.
- 15 Let them be continually before the LORD,  
That He may cut off the memory of them from the earth;
- 16 Because he did not remember to show mercy,  
But persecuted the poor and needy man,  
That he might even slay the broken in heart.
- 17 As he loved cursing, so let it come to him;  
As he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him.
- 18 As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment,  
So let it enter his body like water,  
And like oil into his bones.
- 19 Let it be to him like the garment which covers him,  
And for a belt with which he girds himself continually.



Psalm 109:20-31

- 20 Let this be the LORD's reward to my accusers,  
And to those who speak evil against my person.
- 21 But You, O God the LORD,  
Deal with me for Your name's sake;  
Because Your mercy is good, deliver me.
- 22 For I am poor and needy,  
And my heart is wounded within me.
- 23 I am gone like a shadow when it lengthens;  
I am shaken off like a locust.
- 24 My knees are weak through fasting,  
And my flesh is feeble from lack of fatness.
- 25 I also have become a reproach to them;  
When they look at me, they shake their heads.
- 26 Help me, O LORD my God!  
Oh, save me according to Your mercy,
- 27 That they may know that this is Your hand—  
That You, LORD, have done it!
- 28 Let them curse, but You bless;  
When they arise, let them be ashamed,  
But let Your servant rejoice.
- 29 Let my accusers be clothed with shame,  
And let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle.
- 30 I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth;  
Yes, I will praise Him among the multitude.
- 31 For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor,  
To save him from those who condemn him.

Psalm 110

*A Psalm of David.*

- 1 The LORD said to my Lord,  
“Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
- 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.  
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
- 3 Your people shall be volunteers  
In the day of Your power;  
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,  
You have the dew of Your youth.
- 4 The LORD has sworn  
And will not relent,  
“You are a priest forever  
According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- 5 The LORD is at Your right hand;  
He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.
- 6 He shall judge among the nations,  
He shall fill the places with dead bodies,  
He shall execute the heads of many countries.
- 7 He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;  
Therefore He shall lift up the head.

Psalm 111

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
I will praise the LORD with my whole heart,  
In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.
- 2 The works of the LORD are great,  
Studied by all who have pleasure in them.
- 3 His work is honourable and glorious,  
And His righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;  
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He has given food to those who fear Him;  
He will ever be mindful of His covenant.
- 6 He has declared to His people the power of His works,  
In giving them the heritage of the nations.
- 7 The works of His hands are verity and justice;  
All His precepts are sure.
- 8 They stand fast forever and ever,  
And are done in truth and uprightness.
- 9 He has sent redemption to His people;  
He has commanded His covenant forever:  
Holy and awesome is His name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.  
His praise endures forever.

Psalm 112

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
Who delights greatly in His commandments.
- 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth;  
The generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in his house,  
And his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;  
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
- 5 A good man deals graciously and lends;  
He will guide his affairs with discretion.
- 6 Surely he will never be shaken;  
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings;  
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- 8 His heart is established;  
He will not be afraid,  
Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.
- 9 He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever;  
His horn will be exalted with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be grieved;  
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;  
The desire of the wicked shall perish.

Psalm 113

1 Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
Praise the name of the LORD!

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD  
From this time forth and forevermore!

3 From the rising of the sun to its going down  
The LORD's name is to be praised.

4 The LORD is high above all nations,  
His glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the LORD our God,  
Who dwells on high,

6 Who humbles Himself to behold  
The things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

7 He raises the poor out of the dust,  
And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

8 That He may seat him with princes—  
With the princes of His people.

9 He grants the barren woman a home,  
Like a joyful mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 114

- 1     When Israel went out of Egypt,  
      The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
- 2     Judah became His sanctuary,  
      And Israel His dominion.
  
- 3     The sea saw it and fled;  
      Jordan turned back.
- 4     The mountains skipped like rams,  
      The little hills like lambs.
  
- 5     What ails you, O sea, that you fled?  
      O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6     O mountains, that you skipped like rams?  
      O little hills, like lambs?
  
- 7     Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,  
      At the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8     Who turned the rock into a pool of water,  
      The flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalm 115

- 1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,  
But to Your name give glory,  
Because of Your mercy,  
Because of Your truth.
- 2 Why should the Gentiles say,  
“So where is their God?”
- 3 But our God is in heaven;  
He does whatever He pleases.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold,  
The work of men’s hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak;  
Eyes they have, but they do not see;
- 6 They have ears, but they do not hear;  
Noses they have, but they do not smell;
- 7 They have hands, but they do not handle;  
Feet they have, but they do not walk;  
Nor do they mutter through their throat.
- 8 Those who make them are like them;  
So is everyone who trusts in them.
- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has been mindful of us;  
He will bless us;  
He will bless the house of Israel;  
He will bless the house of Aaron.
- 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD,  
Both small and great.
- 14 May the LORD give you increase more and more,  
You and your children.
- 15 May you be blessed by the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth.
- 16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s;  
But the earth He has given to the children of men.
- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD,  
Nor any who go down into silence.
- 18 But we will bless the LORD  
From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 116

1 I love the LORD, because He has heard  
My voice and my supplications.  
2 Because He has inclined His ear to me,  
Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.  
3 The pains of death surrounded me,  
And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;  
I found trouble and sorrow.  
4 Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!”  
5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
Yes, our God is merciful.  
6 The LORD preserves the simple;  
I was brought low, and He saved me.  
7 Return to your rest, O my soul,  
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.  
8 For You have delivered my soul from death,  
My eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.  
9 I will walk before the LORD  
In the land of the living.  
10 I believed, therefore I spoke,  
“I am greatly afflicted.”  
11 I said in my haste,  
“All men are liars.”  
12 What shall I render to the LORD  
For all His benefits toward me?  
13 I will take up the cup of salvation,  
And call upon the name of the LORD.  
14 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
Now in the presence of all His people.  
15 Precious in the sight of the LORD  
Is the death of His saints.  
16 O LORD, truly I am Your servant;  
I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;  
You have loosed my bonds.  
17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
And will call upon the name of the LORD.  
18 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
Now in the presence of all His people,  
19 In the courts of the LORD’s house,  
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!



Psalm 117

1 Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles!

Laud Him, all you peoples!

2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us,

And the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 118:1-8

- 1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.
- 2 Let Israel now say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”
- 3 Let the house of Aaron now say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”
- 4 Let those who fear the LORD now say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”
- 5 I called on the LORD in distress;  
The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.
- 6 The LORD is on my side;  
I will not fear.  
What can man do to me?
- 7 The LORD is for me among those who help me;  
Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.
- 8 It is better to trust in the LORD  
Than to put confidence in man.
- 9 It is better to trust in the LORD  
Than to put confidence in princes.
- 10 All nations surrounded me,  
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
- 11 They surrounded me,  
Yes, they surrounded me;  
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
- 12 They surrounded me like bees;  
They were quenched like a fire of thorns;  
For in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
- 13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall,  
But the LORD helped me.
- 14 The LORD is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation.
- 15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
Is in the tents of the righteous;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
- 16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
- 17 I shall not die, but live,  
And declare the works of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has chastened me severely,  
But He has not given me over to death.

Psalm 118:19-29

- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness;  
I will go through them,  
And I will praise the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD,  
Through which the righteous shall enter.
- 21 I will praise You,  
For You have answered me,  
And have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This was the LORD's doing;  
It is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day the LORD has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Save now, I pray, O LORD;  
O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 God is the LORD,  
And He has given us light;  
Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God, and I will praise You;  
You are my God, I will exalt You.
- 29 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.

## GOING HOME

