

## Psalm 107 – Human Propensities

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Psalm 107 identifies **four classes of people** (Ps107:4,10,17,23). **The object of the Psalm is the people called to the Second Exodus and the New Israel** (Ps107:1-3). The Psalmist uses **two identical “catch” lines**: the first, establishes that God provide **“deliverance” upon repentance** (Ps107:6,13,19,28); the second, extolls **the “greatness” of God** (Ps107:8,15,21,31). **The Psalm ends with an injunction to understand** (Ps107:43).

**The Historical Psalms: Psalms 105, 106, and 107 are all closely related.** Psalms 105 and 106 consider easily identifiable historical situations to learn from the lessons of history to encourage faith by living by in the Way of God. **Psalm 107 is purely abstract.** The Psalmist may have had historical incidents in mind, but they are ambiguous. The Psalm has **a very formal structure** which is used to develop its theme – the people called to the Second Exodus and the New Israel (Ps107:1-3, Is43:5-6).

**The Structure of Psalm 107:** The main part of the Psalm comprises **four “stanzas”** – in each stanza a “class” of persons is identified as having a certain attitudinal problem (Ps107:4,10,17,23). Each “stanza” outlines **God’s actions to bring the people of each “class” to repentance** – some in each class will respond. **Stanza 1** deals with people **“lost in the desert of the world”** – these people are seeking God; they quickly respond to God’s calling (Ps107:4-9, Hb11:8-10, Mt5:6). **Stanza 2** deals with **people who have rejected God**. Satan thinks he has these people, but when God puts the pressure on them, **some will repent** (Ps107:10-16, Lk15:10,12-13,16-17a,23b-24a). **Stanza 3** deals with **people completely given over to sin**, loving the ways of the world. These people reject all “spiritual food”, all teaching of God; they live “immoral” and “unethical” lives, inveterate sinners (Ps107:17-22). **Only a life shattering experience will bring these people to repentance**; consider Saul of Tarsus (At9:1a,3-5, 26:16b-18). **Stanza 4** deals with **the average person** – the majority of the people on the planet today – just going with the flow, living in the world as best they can, just **“doing business”** (Ps107:23-32). For the most part, **these people will be relieved to learn the Way of God**. The storms of life will be calmed – life will begin to have meaning. Like King David, they will be eager to pass on their understanding (Ps40:9-10).

**Epilogue – the Power of God:** **First**, the Psalmist alludes to **God’s ability to punish human beings** (Ps107:33-34). Isaiah makes a similar allusion, perhaps to the First Exodus (Is50:2b, Ex7:19a,18a, 14:21a,29a). **Secondly**, the Psalmist looks to the **Second Exodus** and the **New Israel** (Ps107:35-38, Is41:18, 35:6b, 65:21, Ez28:25b-26a). **Thirdly**, the Psalmist summarizes **the means God uses to bring people to repentance** (Ps107:39-42). **God’s objective for all the persons** identified in all the stanzas, in fact, for all persons in all nations over the whole world, as specified in every stanza, **is to understand “his wondrous works to the children of man”** (Ps107:8,15,21,31). **Finally**, the Psalmist admonishes those who do repent to **understand the meaning of this Psalm** (Ps107:43). **This is the message of the Psalm for us**, but what exactly is it, that **“whoever is wise”**, should understand? What does the Psalmist mean by **“attend to these things”**? The answer is **“consider the hesed of YHWH – Jesus Christ”** (1Jh4:16, Rm2:4).

**The Plan of God:** The whole working out of the Plan of God is to **give each and every human being who has ever lived the opportunity to repent** and become a candidate for the gift of eternal life. The Psalmist identifies problems that we are going to have to deal with in bringing people to live by the Way of God. Each of us can probably find his, or her, self in one of the “classes” identified by the Psalmist – **we will be able to identify with the people God calls**.

**The Covenant of Performance:** Way back at the time of Moses, **God unequivocally promised his hesed to humanity through the nation of Israel** (Ex34:10). **This is a gratuitous act on God’s part** – there is no requirement on Israel. **God “covenanted” himself to accomplish the Plan of God, “I will do marvels”, “such as have not been created”**. God commits to use **the nation of Israel, “I will do with you”**. Only later do we learn about the **New Israel**. We are God’s “shock troops” – we must succeed in the direst circumstances: this is Satan’s world – **we face the full assault of Satan’s attack**. The Psalmist of the **107th Psalm gives us detailed information about our calling**, our mission, and he adjures to understand it. We are the ones God has called ahead of time, to operate behind enemy lines, to **prepare for the full implementation of the Plan of God, D-Day**. Our first task will be to work with the people called to the New Israel, the people who are the object of the 107th Psalm. Once the New Israel is functioning, **we will lead the charge to take the Gospel to the whole world. This is the hesed of God**.

**Psalm 107 is a particularly beautiful Psalm**, but it takes a little work to understand the message of the Psalm. Using **highly structured poetic techniques**, the Psalmist identifies four classes of **people that God will call to repentance**: each of us can likely identify with one or another of these classes. The Psalmist make it clear that **God’s purpose**, according to the Plan of God, is to offer repentance to each and every human being that has ever lived. The bottom line is that **only by living by the Way of God can people come out of the world and become candidates for the gift of eternal life**. Through the “Covenant of Performance”, God unequivocally committed to accomplish the Plan of God: **he has called us to teach humanity The Way of God**.

The material is based on the document “**The Three Pillars of Revelation**”, specifically the paper “**Third Pillar - The Way of God**” available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>.

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