

Psalm 106:1-5

This psalm is paired with **Numbers 30** regarding vows. People normally made a vow out of thanksgiving and praise for something God had done for them, or in hopes of God's intervention in the future.

But also, in **verse 26** it says God "lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness" - The NET translates this as God "made a vow."

One would sometimes solemnly lift one's hand when making such a vow (**Ezekiel 20:5,6,15**).

- **Ezekiel 20:6** - "...In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands..."

Perhaps this is to emphasize that only God can legitimately make a vow that will be carried out exactly.

The entire psalm recounts Israel's rebellion against God despite his mighty saving deeds on their behalf.

Psalm 106:1 - "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Hallelujah / Praise ye the Lord

For most Christians, "Hallelujah" is considered a joyful word of praise to God - something you say as you praise God when something happens you like - but in the Hebrew it is a call or injunction to praise him.

"Praise ye the Lord" = *hallelujah* (*allēlouia* in Greek Septuagint) - The first part, *hallelu*, is the second-person imperative masculine plural form of the Hebrew verb *hillel*. However, "hallelujah" means more than simply "praise Yah", as the word *hallel* in Hebrew means a joyous praise in song, to boast in God.

Hallel could also refer to someone who acts madly or foolishly. In the context of praise it gives a hint of ecstasy.

The Cross and being a Fool for Christ - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

- **1 Corinthians 1:18** - "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

- **1 Corinthians 1:21** - "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save

those who believe."

- **1 Corinthians 3:19** - "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness."

- **1 Corinthians 4:10** - "We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised."

Paul shows that the only way to really praise God is to go to the cross, count your own life as forfeited, to be "in Christ" and have Him "in you."

In the book of Revelation, the saints in heaven sing Hallelujah four times after God overthrows the Great Whore of Babylon. It is a call to bring believers to a state of abandonment to God in praise, a singular focus, and an action that runs counter to all earthly wisdom, and borders on ecstasy.

"his mercy endureth for ever" - despite Israel's ingratitude and rebellion.

Psalm 106:2 - "Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?"

"mighty acts" = *gəbūwrah* - Strength, but in this context miracles, both in the plagues of Egypt and at the Red Sea but also Christ's miracles.

Language and our human brain limit our ability to describe and recount all of God's miraculous interventions. It is inexhaustible.

Psalm 106:3 - "Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times."

"judgment" = *mishpat* - a judicial verdict, so "those who judge correctly or observe the Law, the word of God properly.

"righteousness" = *tsēdaqah* - justice, righteousness, uprightness

He that...continually believes in Christ for righteousness, and puts on that as his justifying righteousness; whereby he becomes righteous as he is. - Gill's Exposition

- **John 3:7** - "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

Why is this mentioned here? Because observing justice and doing righteousness are continual expressions in your life of the kind of praise we are talking about.

Psalm 106:4-5 - "Remember me, O LORD, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy

people: O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

"remember" - *zâkar* - to mark, reckon, recognize, be mindful of, remember. Just as previously God remembered Noah (**Genesis 8:1**), Abraham (**Genesis 19:29**), Rachel (**Genesis 30:22**), etc.

Interestingly, it can also mean "to be born a male" as in **Exodus 34:19** - "All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male (*zâkar*)." Perhaps this is a hint that God "remembers" us when He sees Christ (His firstborn male son) in us.

"visit me with thy salvation" - *yěshuw`ah* - The salvation of Christ - *Yeshua!*

But a real visitation from God consumes us - "Our God is a consuming fire." (**Hebrews 12:29**) It costs us our life.

Then, if God "sees" us (and Christ in us) then we can "see" or really experience the good that God pours out on Israel His chosen nation and inheritance. We become identified with Israel. Balaam "saw" this from afar, but believers can experience it as a reality.

"that I may glory with thine inheritance" - but not in ourselves.

Going back to the previous examination of "foolishness" vs the wisdom of this world i the preaching of the cross:

- **1 Corinthians 1:29-30** - "That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"