

Psalm 106:6-12

This part of the psalm is to comment on the Torah reading in Numbers 31. Although the war against Midian is because of Midian's treachery, the psalm served to recall Israel's sin in the incident of Baal Peor and all their unfaithfulness previous to that.

Confession of Sin

Psalm 106:6 - "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly."

"iniquity" = *avah* - twisted, perverse, bent out of the way, wicked

The three verbs - sin, iniquity, wickedness - are each more forcible than the last.

This is where the psalm takes a turn, to focus on Israel's sins. But also on everyone's sin. "With our fathers' would include Adam.

- **Romans 3:23** - "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

See **Leviticus 26:40-42** - "If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land."

Also compare with Solomon's prayer:

- **1 Kings 8:46-51** (but read the whole chapter), as well as **Ezra 9:6, 7; Nehemiah 1:6, 7; Nehemiah 9:16-18, 26; Daniel 9:5-8**

Psalm 106:7 - "Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea."

Targum - "but they rebelled against thy word."

How?

Rashi - They had little faith; they said, "Just as we ascend from here, from this side, the Egyptians also are ascending from another side, and they will come after us," until the Holy One, blessed be He, hinted to the sea, and it vomited them out onto the dry land. Then (Exodus 15:30) "Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore." Therefore (ibid. verse 31) "they believed in the Lord," but in the beginning, they did not believe.

Salvation at the Red Sea

Psalm 106:8-9 - "Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left."

Just as not one enemy was left in the Red Sea, in the war on Midian not one Israelite soldier lost his life.

The passing through the Red Sea was a type of baptism (**1 Corinthians 10:1**). In that type, the Egyptians represented the death of our old identity. The passing through the wilderness was also a type of a baptism - that generation literally died, so that a new people could enter the land.

"For His name's sake" - God's name was on this people - He was the God of the Hebrews. Also, it was to complete his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

See **Deuteronomy 9:28** - "Otherwise, those in the land from which you brought us out will say, 'Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land He had promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.'"

Psalm 106:12 - "Then believed they his words; they sang his praise."

When we see ourselves dead, or as Paul says, when we "reckon ourselves as dead," (**Romans 6:11**) then our faith has room to exist - Christ's life fills the void. When we forget that we're dead, we can't believe, and therefore can't sing His praise.

The truth of the meaning of the drowning of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea must be brought to mind whenever we look at ourselves, worry, despair, or find ourselves getting angry or impatient with life.

- **Colossians 3:3** - "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

- **Galatians 2:20** - "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."