

## **The quadruple illustration of Psalm 107**

- Wonderful Psalm that pictures our lost state before conversion in different ways.
  - Then it says repeatedly in the same way (whatever your state) how to be saved.
- We'll follow the same process as before, if you remember, in order to understand it.
- First we'll get an overview of the general themes and structure.
- Firstly it's a psalm of Thanksgiving
  - What for? "For He is good"
- Well we can see a repetition that tells us and gives us the different elements.
  - A repeated phrase 4 times:

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness," v8,15,21,31

- Why, what has He done?

"they cried unto the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them out of their distresses"

- We'll just go up to v32, that's enough for one lesson.
- The theme is God's goodness.

What is it?

- It is a moral characteristic.

A quality from which right actions come. (As opposed to evil)

- The God that exists - what is He like?
- Is He fierce and often does unjust things, like the pagan gods?
  - No, He is Good.
  - He is never unfair- even though the Devil will accuse Him of being so to you.
  - Don't believe it. He is good.
- Here's 4 reasons why.
- So, the structure
  - **1-3** sets the scene
- The saved "the Redeemed" should give thanks.
  - Why?
  - Because God has been merciful to them and saved them from the Enemy, from the four corners of the earth.
- From the East as far as the West
- From the North as far as the South

- Ah, this is a way of describing the 4 pictures that come next. 4 situations.
- Is there any situation that God cannot say you from?
  - Any place in the world that is too far away?
  - No, these compass points cover the whole world!
- Imagine this.
  - If it had just been you.
  - No one else created.  
Just you walking on the surface of the earth before God above.
  - Not any of the mass of humanity
  - Just insignificant you
  - In all your corruption and guilt.
- Would God have bothered to come and save you?
- Would Christ have come to live and die for you only?.....
- Yes, even just for one needy sinner.
  - Like that one lost sheep.
- "But Sir, in what way am I in need of saving?"
- Without God, spiritually, in many ways.
- The psalm gives us 4.

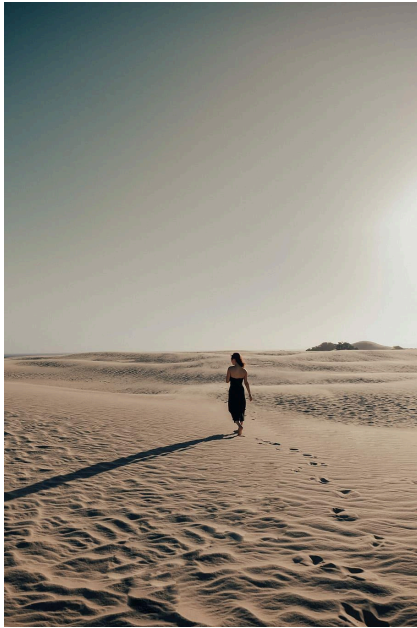
**V4-9** - you are lost in the wilderness

**V10-16** - you are imprisoned

**V17-22** - you've made yourself sick

**V23-32** - you're in danger - like being in a storm at sea.

- These are our pictures
- This is our structure
- Now let's go back and look more closely.
- Situation one



[They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way;](#)

Without God you have no direction in life. You have no way of knowing where to go, or even why. What's the point? Without God this is no point. Such people have no meaning and purpose in their lives and they wander aimlessly. They may have friends but they're alone in the sense that they can't join in what others live for, or find a way for themselves.

[they found no city to dwell in.](#)

You may have a house for your body, but no dwelling for the soul without God. You're out in the wilderness of this world, at the mercy of the bandits that will rob you of all you value, especially your character.

But with God you have a spiritual home amongst God's people, a place of safety. A place with a family.

Talk to anyone who's grown up without a family and you'll see why you need a good one for your soul.

[Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.](#)

You're in this desert world and you look for food, but all it gives your soul are trivial entertainments. No nourishing wisdom for your soul from God. No Bible, no deep things for your soul, just false ideologies.

So what can we do?

[Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them out of their distresses.](#)

This is to cry out to God in prayer.

"But Sir, I don't know how"

Nonsense, if you were lost in the desert and a plane flew over, would you just stand there, or would you wave and shout!

So wave and shout in your heart to God!

What will He do in response?

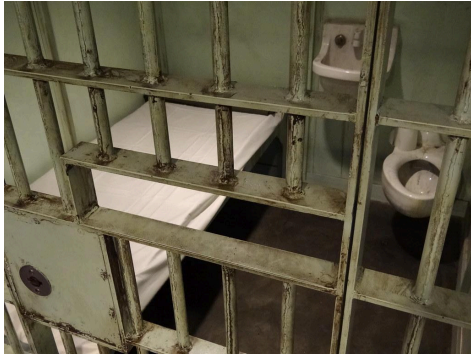
[And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.](#)

He'll lead you out into the safety of the city. Your home. The beautiful city of God.

[Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.](#)

This is repeated every time. This is the point of everything. The Redeemed shout praise God, give Him His glory, He has earned salvation for you, and deserves praise from you. He'll satisfy your soul with the nourishment of the word. Answers to all your questions. Understanding of life, and how to journey through it, good things.

- Situation two



Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

This is the darkness of the prison of ignorance and sin. You cannot go anywhere, just sit, because you're afflicted by your situation. The bondage of sin means you can't break free. Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

Such people have known the ways of God, but decided to go against them. Thought they knew better, but it got them in trouble. Now they're stuck and can't escape.

Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

So their situation grew worse. The prison of their life is like a labour camp, where they work you to death. Life just seems like an endless toil for nothing. Your heart is laid low.

Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.

Once again, the same solution to a different problem. They cry out in prayer from their prison cell, like a man who cannot break free from the chains of his false ideas and beliefs that have fixed him. Maybe he believes in evolution and the big bang, and he can't understand himself as a human being. Fixed in a false mindset.

He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

So God brings him out of the prison of ignorance, freeing his mind and showing him the light of Biblical truth. He sees Christ and what He did to save from sin. He sees Calvary's cross



Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

What a wonderful mercy, that God doesn't leave people in such a poor state, but frees their minds, and hearts.

For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

Those prison bars of false belief and love of sin. Everyone is broken. The person sees he's been believing in falsehoods, and loving the ugly things. Now he can move away from such lies and inordinate affections and break free.

- Situation three



**Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.**

This is the sickness, corruption and disease of sin. We are polluted by our actions, and our appetites bring us to our sick beds spiritually

**Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.**

Now the wholesome things can't be enjoyed because the senses have been over indulged. Like eating nothing but sugar. Worldly entertainments and pleasures have skewed your affections. And your feelings are now on a rollercoaster of brief highs and terrible lows. You can't control your moods. And nothing seems to satisfy you. Things like social media are sucking the life right out of you. You're depressed and can't enjoy books or the simple pleasures of life anymore. Sinful appetites have made you unhappy in your constitution.

**Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.**

**He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.**

So they cry out like the others. Christ comes, "the Word", and binds up your wounds like the Good Samaritan. He heals like He did to those who were brought to Him on their sick beds. Their sins are called destructions. Our own loves and behaviour can destroy us. We see it in people who drink and smoke and do drugs. We see it in people who can't control their temper and get into conflicts. We see it in people who can't stop lying and get into trouble. But Christ will change those who call, He will give them new affections, and a distaste for sin. All of a sudden you don't want it anymore, and you're not driven by them.

**Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**



And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. Now they're found in Church praising God for salvation, instead of in the pub or club, or in front of the computer game or movie screen. They've been made well and don't have unhealthy desires.

- Situation four



They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;  
These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.

These are the sailors and great merchant men. Strong, proud. The earth seems small. Maybe we get good grades and a good job. Get paid well by business. We see the wonders of multinational corporations. The sea is often a picture of the sea of nations. Maybe a person like this forgets about God in the pride of life

For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

But God controls all things. And He brings a storm to humble and make the man think how small he is. The storms of life can be any troubling event. Trouble in relationships, health, an accident, being caught out in a sin.

They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.

Life seems to pick you up and throw you down. You're no longer in control. You're being driven by circumstances. It's like being in a storm. Your inner being is in mortal danger

They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

You couldn't control circumstances, now you can't control yourself. The ship of your life is lurching one way then the other emotionally as you try to stay afloat.

If you're frightened of dying, and you're holding on, you'll see devils tearing your life away. But if you've made your peace, then the devils are changed to angels freeing you from the earth.

And before then, stopping you going under and down.

Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

So, by now we know the only way of salvation. To cry to the Lord to save them, just like the disciples did in the storm on lake Galilee.

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

The Lord will wake at your prayer. He will come to your aid. Just as the the world was created at His word, it will be controlled at His command. He'll command his angels to stop that storm in life. Immediately you'll be at peace. The winds of troubling accusations, the

waves of sins consequences, become calm. Why because you'll know you're right with God and He'll justify you against any accusations.

Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

Your heart will know true calm and you'll know the peace of conscience, you'll find a place of peace at church, ultimately you'll be brought into the haven of heaven at the end of life's journey.

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Oh that they would! We join our voices with the psalmist.

Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders

Now we join with those who have gone before us, and worship God for his goodness in salvation.

- At the start I imagined you saying "Sir in what way do I need saving?"
  - There are four ways for you.

- I can think of plenty more poetic pictures of life without God:

Your soul is like a hat caught in a high tree top and torn in the wind.

Your soul is like a fossil stuck in stone

A fish frozen in a river

A blue whale beached on the shore

A butterfly caught in a spiders web

A king on his throne with his eyes put out

A rich man sleeping on a hard cold golden bed

A fox chased by a pack of dogs

A bird with a broken wings

- Do you think the Lord can't save you?
  - His arm is too short?
  - He doesn't answer prayer?
- These four examples in psalm 107 say otherwise.
- Don't be tempted to think Christ isn't the answer.
- Call upon Him, like your soul depends upon it, and He'll come for you "I promise", but what is that worth? A man's promise.
  - No, your hope rests upon God's promise here, 4 times!
- You'll come home,
- You'll be free,
- You'll be healed,
- You'll be safe.

-Call upon Him, even today and He'll save you in your situation, because He's good.

-Oh that this may happen to you, and you'll praise the Lord for it!

