

Psalm 108:7–13

Taking Our Place in God's People and God's Plan

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 • Read Psalm 108:7–13

Questions from the Scripture text: In what has God spoken (v7a)? What will He do (v7b)? What other two things (v7c–d)? What two places/peoples belong to Him (v8a)? And what two for honorable use (v8b–c)? And what two for more common use (v9a–b)? Who/where else is His (v9c)? What will they do? What does David now ask in v10? What is the answer to his question (v11)? But what is the problem, if he is looking forward to the Lord doing this? Why isn't he looking for help elsewhere (v12)? Of what outcome is he sure (v13)? Through Whom? How?

When God seems to have turned against us, where can we find hope? Psalm 108:7–13 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these seven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **our hope in troubled times is that God has taken us to be His own, and that He ultimately takes the whole world to be His own.**

Nations gathered in. With v7, David moves from the second half of Psalm 57 to the second half of Psalm 60. Both there and here, God speaks in His holiness. The view of history is the same as in Habakkuk, where God speaks from His holy temple in 2:20. The nations of the world (v9) are His to do as He wishes with them. Although Israel is currently being overrun, from Shechem to Judah He has appointed for Israel places of honor. The geographical progression in the six places from v7–8 recaptures the progress as they entered and took the land.

Although Moab and Edom and Philistia were at times enemies (especially Edom), by combining Psalm 60 with Psalm 57, we better understand what is happening in verse 9. It is a fulfillment of verse 3. The nations shall be gathered for the worship of God. So the wash pot and the shoe-holder and the shouting represent in metaphors that time when the nations have been gathered in: God the warrior has returned from His victory, washed up, taking his shoes off, and begins to rejoice at the conclusion of His day.

Moments of trouble between now and then. But just now, David seems to be having some trouble with Edom. Sometimes, from the midst of the sequence of circumstances, it does not immediately appear how glorious and good is the overall event. So zooming out, to consider that God has spoken all of this in His holiness, enables the psalmist to view his current circumstances from the proper perspective.

With this perspective he comes to verse 10, where the present still seems to be impossible. But now he is asking how this will happen—not from the standpoint of wondering if it will happen at all, but rather presuming that it will happen, and wondering in what way. The answer is obvious, verse 11, God Himself.

The God in Whose providence we come into trouble is our only hope for bringing us out of it. So, in our lives, we sometimes perceive that God is chastening us. We have harmed ourselves or others, and offended God, by our misconduct—or even just backsliding or negligence. Even in such circumstances, especially in such circumstances, the God who is chastening us is also our only hope.

The only thing we can do is repent; remember His Word and His character and His work; and, turn to Him anew in grateful dependence and obedience. The worst thing that we can do is think that we ourselves can come up with a way of fixing our situation. So there is much hoping in families and in nations: not in the mercy of God to bless righteousness and faithfulness and diligence, but rather the cleverness of the scheme, renewed sincerity of the intention, or renewed fury of effort. And there is much in the churches in the way of man-made “evangelism” (which is no evangelism at all), man-made discipleship, or man-made worship.

Anything other than repentant dependence (and dependent repentance) is, ultimately, to depend upon the help of men. But, as verse 12 says, the help of men is useless. Rather, meekly submitting to the Lord, in the things the Lord has said to do, and trusting the Lord Himself to bring about what He has spoken in holiness, we must look to Him alone to deliver us from any trouble.

Through God, we participate in God's work. At the end, as v13 confidently confesses, there will be no enemies left. God turns enemies into subjects, whom He treads down in discipline, as He is with David and Israel at the time of the Psalm. Or else, there are those whom He treads down in destruction. Either way, there will be no enemies left. The one will be reconciled and perfected, and the other eliminated from the new heavens and new earth, reserved instead for wrath.

It is to this God, Who is doing this work in the whole of history, that we look. By Him, we may participate faithfully in whatever slice of history He has assigned to us, and whatever privilege or role He has given us within that slice of His work.

What trouble are you in? In Whose providence have you come into it? What is He ultimately doing? How will you be able to acquit yourself well in this part of His doing that? When His plan is finished, what will you be doing with whom?

Sample prayer: Our gracious and glorious God, we thank You that You have spoken Your plan of redemption in Your holiness. Surely, it shall come to pass. So, we rejoice to come and praise You—to enjoy this foretaste of the great worship assembly of the nations that is the end toward all of history moves forward. Help us now, in this slice of history that You have appointed us. Through You, we hope valiantly to work. And through You, we hope valiantly to worship. Grant us to do so, we ask, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP108B “God Spoke in Holiness” or TPH108 “My Heart Is Steadfast, God!”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 108 verse 7, through 13. God has spoken in his holiness. I will rejoice. I will revise Shechem and measure out the valley of sucketh. Gilead is mine Manassas. Mine, if from also is the helmet from my head. Judah is my lawgiver. Moab is my wash bought over edam.

I will cast my shoe. Over philistia will triumph. Who will bring me into the strong city. Sorry. Who will bring me into the strong city. Who will lead me to eat him. Is it not you? Oh god. Who cast us off? And you oh god who did not go out with our armies.

Give us help from trouble. For the help of man is useless. Through god, we will do valiantly For it. Is, he who shall tread down? Our enemies. Man, that sends this reading of god's inspired and inherent word. Psalm 108 combines the latter halves of two different. Psalms Fortunately had last week versus one through six.

Also the latter half of psalm 57. Now, the portion we have this week And verses 7 through 13. Uh, is also the latter half of Psalm 60. And here is he is quoting this, he's taking it to. Address the casting off that he is currently experiencing. Verse. 11, the trouble that he is currently experiencing that the people of god.

Are currently experiencing verse 12 and he's taken the two together. Last week is you remember in the first Six verses focusing on the character of god in himself. And the plan of god, For all of history.

Focusing on the character of god in himself and the plan of god and all of history to gather to himself, a people who will praise him. And that holy and great assembly. And now he takes a second half of Psalm, 60. Reminding himself that all of this, everything that happens is according to the plan of god, and part of the work of god and And that the lord will surely with almighty power.

Uh, finish. And that which he is determined not only for israel. But for all the nations from whom he has gathering to himself. An assembly of nations and people's. Like he had remembered in verse 3. That he will be participating. Uh, with in worship when all is said and done.

So he says god has spoken in his holiness. Verse 7. That's a reminder that what god says will come to pass. He doesn't speak like men do He speaks as the holy god does. He speaks as the one who has in himself, almighty power and who himself is unchanging.

And, Uh, when he finished his work. He will indeed rejoice. And now as the the poetry of the prayer and the song, Uh, as this is Follows some geography, it follows Uh, six named places. Which are? At first, on the east side of the Jordan, The. Uh, secum and the valley of sucketh.

And then manasa. Bridges. The Or sorry, shocking value of sucketh and gilead on the east side. And then as he comes over, Manasseh, is a section that actually bridges. The Jordan And then, Um, Ephraim and judah. I basically the, the largest Uh, tribes the largest portions of this of the north.

And then of the south And it's calling to mind the entire conquest of the land. Uh, which god did in electing love. Uh, israel was not any better than the lands that he was dispossessing, he repeats that to them several times. In the book of Deuteronomy, for instance, But he does it in electing love, and he does it in almighty power.

According to his own plan of wisdom, and there were many points at which Uh, whether it's in the wilderness on the way to the lander and the conquest of the land itself, there are many points at which, from a human perspective. It seemed like everything was falling apart and often due to the sin of the people and god's.

Uh, righteous and Right. Disciplining chasing response of the people. And so, Uh, david here in his own trouble, which is related to. Um, To. His sin. And the people's, Sinfulness remembers. That god is acting according to what he has spoken. And indeed, not only does he have these places of honor?

But when he, when he always said and done, That even moab eat them and philistia. The elect from those nations will have a part in. The great congregation of those who god has gathered and perfected for. His worship. Uh, yes. The Um, The wash pot and the shoe. Are not so honorable.

As. The helmet. And The law giver. Uh, for instance, and in verse Seven and eight. But they are part of the victorious, rejoicing scene. As he says, i will rejoice the warrior returns home. And his first stop is the wash pot. Uh, cleaning up his, his hands and arms, and his face and getting ready to relax at home.

And then he Casts his shoe or hands. His shoe. Um, either to A servant who is going to take the shoes away or Or maybe there's Uh, Spot by the door on that by the door where he leaves his shoes and sits down and begins shouting and rejoicing and Um, The.

Uh, the hebrew and even The later Greek translation of the Hebrew. Of the last part of verse 9. It's difficult to tell exactly what. The relationship is between Philistia and the rejoicing, whether Philistia is Uh in the word picture of the whole thing of the warrior returned home, the chair in which he sits down and And starts to rejoice over the success of the day and the victory, the success of the campaign and the victories of the day, or Um, But the whole thing.

As positive with all of those. Whom he has gathered to himself. Those who were his enemies and israel themselves. Having been and conducted themselves as enemies, but god, having subdued them. All of god's enemies. Uh, will be Eliminated, and they will not. There will not be enemies in the new heavens.

And then you earth that enemies are Um, Our tread down as it were or some dude. In one of two ways. Either by His subjugating them, bringing them gathering them to himself. In which case, We still experience. Uh, pain. As he disciplines us, those who are true, children will be with discipline if you're without discipline or not his true child.

Hebrews chapter 12, for instance, So, an enemy will either become Uh, belonging to him my subject or a son. Who receives discipline or The enemy will be eliminated by destruction. And there will be those who are Destroyed forever. Uh, by the lord and by the glory. Uh, by the presence of the lord.

And by his glory, Um, but that will not be a part. Of the new heavens of the year. New earth that will not be a part. Um, of This worship assembly. That he was remembering from the latter half of psalm 57 that had made up the first half. Of this psalm.

And so, whenever we come into trouble, Uh, we must be where Of thinking that we are going to scheme our way out of it. Or that. Uh, by Uh, better thinking or that by renewed, and you know how sincere are feelings. Are now we are going to do better than before, or by house zealous or diligent our will, is that that will make the difference.

No, the help of man is useless, especially the help of myself, but also of any other man when i'm in trouble, Uh, when you are in trouble. Let us do as the spirit here teaches us to do by the pen and the prayer and the song. Of david. To remember that the only one who can't help as the one who has our ordained the trouble that we're going through even now.

And who has done. So. In his plan, which is he is perfectly executing Of redeeming for himself. Uh, the people who will have been gathered to him, In the last day. And so, when he asks, Um, you know, he's just remembered to edam and there are going to be edomites who are there.

In the last day. Um, in verse 9. Yes, so who will bring me into the strong city who will lead me to eat him? He remembers. That are are great, hope our great help. Really, our only hope. And our only help. He is the one who uses any of the other means is god, And so, when we feel ourselves to be under God's discipline, Or at least ourselves.

No, or at least know ourselves to be suffering in god's providence. It's God's discipline, and it's god's providence. And we will come through by god's help. So he's a who will bring me into the strong city, who will lead me to eat him. Is it? Not you, oh god, it cast us off.

And you oh god who did not go out with our armies. Give us help. From our trouble. For the help of men. As useless. Let us always. Learn them to rest. Entirely upon him and not to put our hopes And whatever cleverness or sincerity or Uh, diligence or resolve.

Um, Isn't us. But rather In the plan and the goodness and the power. Of god who has spoken in his holiness. Finally then verse 13 through god, we will do valiantly For does, he who shall tread down our enemies? Even and especially That which remains in us from our own enmity against god.

Was it not he who when we were still his enemies christ died for us. And surely he is not going to leave us. With any of the enemy that remains within. Any more than he will with any of the enemy that that remains without So, we hope in god, Uh, we are as it were.

Wigs. Like like david. Was here by the grace of god. And we looked to god, For the same grace, let's pray. Our gracious. God and our heavenly father. We thank you and praise you for what you did in. The conquest of the land. Reminding us and showing us that.

You are almighty and your power and Your plan for how you will do. What you have determined to do is perfectly wise. And that all of it has conceived in the love, in which you're determined together. A people to yourself. We thank you that this included not just Jews or israelites particularly.

Oh, lord. As we around this table are. From japheth, and Um, And from ham. And, We pray, lord that you would Glorify yourself. In our lives, by carrying out the what remains Of how you have intended to gather us to yourself and give us. Whatever place you have appointed to us.

And that final and glorious worship assembly. Lord. We pray that you had help us in our times of trouble and Pray a particularly for any. In our family, who feel

themselves to be troubled. Just now That should remind us that you who have chastened, us are also the one who will help us who will bring us through.

Along. Uh the planned path by which you have intended to do so. And give us to be refreshed in our hope. That is in you and to know that through you. We will do valuably, give us to submit. To you and to your word. Um, knowing that it is not By the intention or resolve or sincerity.

Of our submission and obedience. Uh, but by you yourself and your own perfection. As our help. That we shall be sure to come at last To the desired haven to the desired conclusion. So grant to us the ministry of your spirit, we pray. To continue writing this portion of your word on our hearts.

We ask In jesus name. Amen.