

Psalm 105:1-6

As a Haftarah to **Numbers 23-24** and Balaam's blessing of Israel, this psalm relates the history of God's care and blessing of his people. The "everlasting covenant" with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the focus.

See **verse 15** - "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

The LXX places "Hallelujah" at the beginning of this psalm rather than at the end of Psalm 104.

This psalm was penned by David, and sung at the time when the ark was brought from the house of Obbededom to the place which David had prepared for it; at least the first fifteen verses of it.

Psalm 105:1 - "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

"call upon His name" = *qara' shem* - this can also mean "proclaim His name." Both concepts are linked.

This is practically a description of the whole life of a believer. We praise and thank God, call upon Him in prayer, and make his deeds known by our witness to what He's done for us and by preaching the gospel. The result is that as we experience His love, we can love to others.

- **Isaiah 12:4** - "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted."

Psalm 105:2 - "Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."

"talk ye" = *siyach* - speak but also "meditate upon"

Singing is also commanded in the New Testament:

- **Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Why is music and singing a fundamental of worshipping God?

Music by itself is capable of evoking powerful emotions.

Creation itself is portrayed as singing at the beginning:

- **Job 38:7** - "when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted

for joy"

And at the end of time, the saints will fall down before the Lamb and sing:

- **Revelation 5:9** - "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation"

This is not a concert for an audience, or only for people with good voices. Believers sing from necessity out of the inner joy of their souls.

Different voices combining to sing together reinforces the truth of our unity in Christ.

Psalm 105:3 - "Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD."

Rashi - Boast of the stronghold of His holy name, that you have a patron like Him.

"The Shekinah does not dwell in a place of sorrow, but only in a place of joy. If a place has no joy, the Shekinah will not abide there." - Zohar, 11. Vayeshev: 3, verse 29.

By meditating on and speaking about His wonderful works, our hearts are filled with joy, which moves us to sing.

Psalm 105:4 - "Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore."

"Seek" here originally referred to the outward act of visiting the sanctuary where God dwelled with Israel, but it came to express the inward purpose of the heart as well. The first "seek" denotes the attitude of loving devotion, the second that of inquiry or supplication.

The ark of the covenant, which contained the tablets of the Law, is referred to as God's strength":

- **Psalm 63:2** - "So I have seen You in the sanctuary, to behold Your power and glory."

- **Psalm 132:8** - "Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength."

Psalm 105:5 - "Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"

This is what the wilderness generation failed to do, which led to murmuring and rebellion. They forgot all these. First you forget what He's done for you, then you forget His commandments.

Psalm 105:6 - "O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen."

Jesus spends time clarifying what it means to be of the seed of Abraham. These promises aren't automatically bestowed just because you're a Jew, or grew up in church.

- **Matthew 3:9** - "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

- **Galatians 3:29** - "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise."

It all comes down to faith. Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

- **2 Corinthians 1:20** - "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."