

SBC – April 26, 2026

Psalm 106:1-27 (NKJV)

“Israel’s Unfaithfulness to God” (Pt. One)

Psalm 105 and Psalm 106 are companion Psalms with 105 emphasizing God’s faithfulness and 106 emphasizing Israel’s unfaithfulness.

*“The keynote of Psalm 105 is, ‘Remember His mighty deeds,’ that of Psalm 106 is, ‘They forgot His mighty deeds.’” – **Alexander Maclaren***

Yet, Psalm 106 also emphasizes God’s faithfulness in His forbearance of His rebellious people. So we might look at it like this: Psalm 105 emphasizes God’s faithfulness in a positive light, while 106 from a negative light – that is in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness.

As we study this psalm, it may be like witnessing an autopsy, but we will benefit from it if, like the psalmist, we keep our eyes on the Lord of glory and see His kindness and faithfulness to His sinful people.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

The Hebrew text has no superscription. We are not told who the author is. Verse 47 would seem to indicate a context of exile and Gentile affliction.

The occasion for this psalm is most likely the repentance (v. 6) of post-Exilic Jews who had returned to Jerusalem (vv. 46, 47).

– **John MacArthur**

Slide # 1

Psalm 106

“Israel’s Unfaithfulness to God”

- vv. 1-5 The Invocation
- vv. 6-7 Confession of Sin – Past and Present
- vv. 8-12 God’s Mercy to Rebellious Israel
- vv. 13-15 Lustfulness and Leanness
- vv. 16-18 Envy Judged
- vv. 19-23 Making God Their Adversary
- vv. 24-27 Judgment in the Wilderness
- vv. 28-31 God Sent a Plague
- vv. 32-33 Provoking Moses to Sin
- vv. 34-39 The Sin of Idolatry
- vv. 40-43 God Turned Israel Over to the Gentiles
- vv. 44-46 God’s Great Mercy to Israel
- v. 47 A Prayer for Restoration
- v. 48 The Benediction

Psalm 106:1–27 (NKJV)

1 Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 106 begins in the same way that 105 concluded, namely with “Hallelujah,” which is translated as “Praise the LORD!” God is greatly to be praised for how He faithfully deals with His people.

He is to be thanked for His goodness. The idea here is that He constantly works for the benefit and good of His people – even in discipline. By His very nature, He is a GOOD God. All things work together for good for those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

And then, in keeping with His goodness, is His mercy that endures forever. Mercy, here is the strong Hebrew word “hesed” which refers to God’s covenant faithfulness. God’s covenant faithfulness endures forever.

Maybe someone could let the covenant theologians know who say God has broken His covenant with Israel and cast them aside in favor of the church. That theology is abhorrent to me because it desecrates the very nature of God. If God is not faithful to His unconditional covenant, then He is a completely different kind of God who really can’t be trusted at all.

This whole Psalm should be understood through the lens of “hesed” – God’s unwavering faithfulness in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness.

Slide # 2

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

6 “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?

Who can properly express the greatness of how God acts on behalf of His people? Who can properly express all the praise He should receive?

No human tongue will ever be able to recount all the miraculous interventions of God on behalf of His people. Eternity itself will not be long enough to praise Him adequately for all that He is and all that He has done. – **William MacDonald**

3 Blessed are those who keep justice, And he who does righteousness at all times!

The most appropriate way to express praise to God is by living out justice and righteousness as a consistent way of life. When God has His rightful place in the life it shows in how we live.

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation,

The writer desires for God's favor to rest upon him and for God to intervene with deliverance on his behalf.

He now gives three reasons for the requests as seen in verse 5.

5 That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.

He wants to experience the blessing that God intends for His chosen ones with the resultant JOY that will bring. And that he may share in glory (victory) that God's inheritance (His people) will ultimately know.

So the Psalmist wants to have the favor, blessing, and victory that comes from God, but he knows that in order for this to really be fully experienced God's people must be right with God. And so he now turns his attention to the barrier to this reality – name the sin of the people.

6 We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly.

He admits they are no better than their forefathers! It is funny how people tend to think they are not as bad as people in the past.

Slide # 3

Matthew 23:29–30 (NKJV)

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,

30 and say, **‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them** in the blood of the prophets.’

This writer admits, “We are no better.” He uses three words to drive home the thoroughness of their sinfulness.

- Sinned – Miss the mark
- Iniquity – Crookedness/Perverse
- Wicked – Bad/Depraved

And now at length, he will dissect the sinful failures of the forefathers of which he admits we are no better.

7 Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea.

They did not really appreciate the miracle-working wonders of the LORD Who had just miraculously brought them out of Egypt. They were no sooner on the other side of the Red Sea, and they grievously began to complain to Moses.

Slide # 4

Exodus 14:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away **to die** in the wilderness? **Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?**

12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should **die** in the wilderness.”

Talk about a lack of faith! They are really accusing God Who was working through Moses of bringing them out of Egypt just to have them die in the wilderness. They were off to a really bad start! They had just seen all wonders God did for them in Egypt and on the way out.

8 Nevertheless He saved them for His name’s sake, That He might make His mighty power known.

There is a lot of “Nevertheless” in God’s story. It is amazing what He puts up with. Nevertheless, for His own name’s sake, that He might make His mighty power known He delivered them.

9 He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.

He dried up the Red Sea and led them through the depths of the sea on dry ground as if it were a desert. Wilderness here is the idea of dry and barren ground. It wasn't even a little bit wet! It was a miracle!

Thus...

10 He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

God delivered them from Pharaoh and rescued them from the hand of the enemy! God did this in spite of themselves, not because of them (cf. Lk. 1:71).

11 The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left.

Note that not a single Jewish soul perished in this event, and not a single Egyptian who came into the sea after them survived. Not one of them was left (Ex. 14:28). They all died! The victory was TOTAL!

12 Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.

Initially, they then believed and sang His praise.

Slide # 5

Exodus 15:1 (NKJV)

1 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

Now you would think the scene of the entire Egyptian army drowning in the Red Sea would leave a lasting impression, but alas...

13 They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,

They soon forgot His works! It is amazing how quickly we tend to forget God. We are so easily distracted.

“In the hour of deliverance faith aided by sight is strong, and it is easy to sing. But directly [when] strain and stress return, the past of God’s might is forgotten, and His counsel is not sought.”

– **G. Campbell Morgan**

“Is it that way with you? You see God’s miracles, but at the first sign of any new opposition you forget what God has done and are soon rebelling against what you suppose to be your hard and painful life? Then, when God saves you again, you sing his praises but soon forget even that deliverance? That is exactly what you and I are like.”

– **James Montgomery Boice**

It is good to recognize that this is the human condition. We are all very human with very human tendencies – including to properly remember God.

Slide # 6

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Here is the secret to staying on track and not losing sight of God. Stay in His Word day in and day out as a way of life.

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.

15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

“Lusted exceedingly” in the Hebrew is just a repetition of the word lust – they “lusted lusted” or to bring it across in our vernacular, they “lusted exceedingly”.

The scene here is found in Numbers 11 where the people wanted the food like they had back in Egypt.

Slide # 7

Numbers 11:4–6 (NKJV)

4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: **“Who will give us meat to eat?”**

5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is **nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!**"

To test God is to challenge Him instead of submitting to Him. According to Numbers 14:22, the children of Israel tested God ten times in the wilderness. They were constantly trying to challenge God.

So God in Numbers 11 gave them their request by sending a huge amount of quail to eat. As they greedily went after the quail, the wrath of the LORD burned against them, and they were struck with a great plague, and many died (Num. 11:31-33).

They got what they wanted, but it did nothing for their souls. Getting what you want physically will never satisfy spiritually.

The judgment mentioned ... (in Numbers 11) was strict, but it was a *help* to the Israelites because it taught them not to be ruled by their cravings and lusts. They came to call this place *Kibroth Hattaavah* – meaning, "**Graves of Craving**" (Numbers 11:34). Many have since allowed their cravings to become their graves. – **David Guzik**

Sometimes getting what you want is not what you want!

"Oh, do not seek to impose your will on God; do not insist on anything with too great vehemence; let God choose. Whenever you make request for things, which are not definitely promised, ask God not to grant them, except it be for the very best." -**F.B.Meyer**

16 When they envied Moses in the camp, And Aaron the saint of the LORD,

17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan, And covered the faction of Abiram.

18 A fire was kindled in their company; The flame burned up the wicked.

In view here is what is commonly called, "Korah's rebellion."

Korah was a cousin of Moses and Aaron and a descendant of Levi. As such, he was a Levite, but could not biblically serve as a priest. Priests were of the family of Aaron. He had a privileged position but coveted the position of Moses and Aaron.

Then, there were also Dathan and Abiram, who were cohorts in the rebellion. A conspiracy was born as they gathered 250 of the key leaders of Israel to be with them in this rebellion. Together, they attempted a hostile takeover regarding the leadership positions of Moses and Aaron.

They sounded so spiritual...

Slide # 8

Numbers 16:3 (NKJV)

3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “**You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy,** every one of them, and the LORD is among them. **Why** then do you **exalt yourselves above the assembly** of the LORD?”

Well, they didn't have to wait long to see what God thought about this.

Slide # 9

Numbers 16:31–33 (NKJV)

31 Now it came to pass, as he [Moses] finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

32 and the **earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up**, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

33 So they and all those with them **went down alive into the pit**; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram and company specifically were swallowed by the earth. But, there were 250 other rebels who were specifically challenging the role of Aaron and intruding in on the office of the priesthood by offering incense, which only the priests were supposed to do.

The Lord sent out fire – evidently like lightning bolts and consumed these rebel priest impersonators. It was instant CREMATION (Num. 16:35).

Slide # 10

“I would rather play with forked lightning, or take in my hand living wires with their fiery current, than to speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ....” – **A.B. Simpson**

**19 They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image.
20 Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass.**

The writer does not list his examples in chronological order because the sin with the gold calf happened before that of Korah's rebellion which he has already mentioned just before this. So he is thematically making his point without necessarily having regard for proper chronological order.

Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Law (cf. Ex. 19:11). No sooner had Moses gone up on the Mount to receive the Law and the people immediately fell into idolatry.

The glory of Israel was their God, but here they are worshipping a golden calf (Ex. 32:4).

Paul quoted from the Septuagint translation of this phrase from Psalm 106:20 in Romans 1:23, using it as a strong accusation against idolaters of all kinds. As Paul's application of this in Romans 1:23 demonstrates, "It is not Israel alone that has been guilty of the sin of idolatry. This is humanity's sin in general. We too are idolaters when we put anything but God in God's place."

- James Montgomery Boice

**21 They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,
22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea.**

Again we see how they forgot God their Savior Who had done great things in Egypt. The land of Ham was a certain territory in Egypt where Noah's son Ham and his descendants came to live. They forgot the miracles of the Exodus!

The Exodus was the greatest cluster of miracles in the OT. It is constantly referred back to as the ultimate OT standard that demonstrated WHO the God of Israel is as the ONE TRUE GOD!

Israel had a front row seat, but they FORGOT about all the great things God had done for them in Egypt in the Exodus. This is the second time so far in the Psalm that the emphasis is on them FORGETTING (v. 13, 21).

When it comes to God people tend to have a short attention span!

23 Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

When Israel made the golden calf to worship while Moses was on Mount Sinai getting the 10 commandments (oh the irony), that occasion really angered God.

Slide # 11

Exodus 32:9–10 (NKJV)

9 And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a **stiff-necked people!**

10 Now therefore, **let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”**

God in effect said to Moses, I am done with this people, I will start over with you! The clear impression is that if Moses did nothing God would have wiped out Israel and started over with just Moses.

“The metaphor ‘stood in the breach’ derives from military language, signifying the bravery of a soldier who stands in the breach of the wall, willing to give his life in warding off the enemy (cf. Ezekiel 22:30). So Moses stood bravely in the presence of Almighty God on behalf of Israel.” -**Willem A. VanGemeren**

There is a great mystery regarding prayer and God’s sovereignty! God uses prayer and yet He is totally sovereign.

“Mighty as was the sin of Israel to provoke vengeance, prayer was mightier in turning it away. How diligently ought we to plead with the Lord for this guilty world, and especially for his own backsliding people!” - **Charles Spurgeon**

24 Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word,

What a bunch of disgruntled whiners and complainers! They were not appreciative of anything God had done for them. They despised the pleasant land, which is a term for the Promised Land. Instead of appreciating it – they despised it. They didn’t believe it was so great as God had said. They did not believe they could conquer it as He had promised.

In view here is their sinful unbelief at Kadesh Barnea (Num. 14:1-4) where they did not believe the promise of God or the report of Joshua and Caleb – the two faithful spies (Num. 13:30).

25 But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD.

Slide # 12

Numbers 14:1–3 (NKJV)

1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and **cried**, and the people **wept** that night.

2 And all the children of Israel **complained** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, **“If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!”**

3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”

The patience of Moses and Aaron amazes me. I think when they said it would have been better for us to die, I would have been tempted to say, “AMEN, yes, I too think it would be better for all of us if you were dead.”

But being godly as they were, they didn’t say that, although Moses came close when he struck the rock.

“Murmuring is a great sin and not a mere weakness; it contains within itself unbelief, pride, rebellion, and a whole host of sins. It is a home sin, and is generally practiced by complainers ‘in their tents,’ but it is just as evil there as in the streets, and will be quite as grievous to the Lord.” – ***Charles Spurgeon***

26 Therefore He raised up His hand in an oath against them, To overthrow them in the wilderness,

27 To overthrow their descendants among the nations, And to scatter them in the lands.

God was so upset with this generation that He vowed they would not enter the Promised Land. And so they spent the next 38 years going to funerals constantly until that whole generation died off (cf. Num. 14:27-29).

Furthermore, a prophecy is embedded here that foresaw their descendants would be removed from the land of Promise and scattered to Gentile lands which of course proved true (cf. Lev. 26:33; Deut. 4:26-27; 28:64-65; Ezek. 20:23).

If someone says, “Well, that was back then, what does that have to do with us today?” Well, Paul answers that very question.

Slide # 13

1 Corinthians 10:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

You can't be too careful! This world is a minefield, and there is danger all along the way! We are never safe until we are home! The only way to not fall is to stay close to God.

The details may be different in our lives, but the underlying temptations and failures remain timeless. We cannot afford to treat lightly our human waywardness! – **Warren Wiersbe**

They soon forgot, they forgot God their Savior!

Be warned, be wise, be in the Word!

John Newton who wrote Amazing Grace toward the end of his life said:

'Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.' -**John Newton**

Praise the LORD that His covenant faithfulness endures forever. We often fail God, but He never fails us!

Psalm 106:1 (NKJV)

1 Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.