

The Pattern of God's Working
Part One
God Moves Through Mighty Surges of Reviving Power
Psalm 107

One of the great ways that God has moved in history has been through outpourings of His Spirit upon mankind. Please note that I am not saying that this is the only way that He has moved because that would most certainly not be true.

But most of the really memorable times, the records that call out for our attention in the story of humanity, have been those great works of His Spirit upon groups and even cultures and nations of men.

Before I continue further I would point out that there are times when we do not actually see something happen but we still know that it did. If you are hiking in the mountains with an experienced hunter you may come upon a place where the hunter stops, studies the ground, and announces, "a large bear has come by this spot in the last hour." You look around and see nothing that seems out of the ordinary to you and say to the hunter, "I think you are mistaken, nothing I see indicates anything of the sort." But then as he shows you the footprints, the size and depth of them, the hair brushed off against a tree and the obvious record the bear has left of himself just recently, you recognize that the hunter was right and you were simply too untrained to see the evidence.

The first and second evidences that we can see of the moving of the Holy Spirit in the world in mighty ways are something like the hunter discovering evidence of the unseen bear.

The first moving of God we find is obscured in the dust of history.

Though the record was written down by Moses, the event occurred much earlier than his life, in some of the earliest days of the human race, sometime after the murder of Abel by his brother Cain.

Gen 4:25-26

25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

It is not absolutely clear as to whether the meaning is as represented by the KJV, though most English translations agree, or "It was during his lifetime that men first began to call themselves "the Lord's people."" (TLB),

...or as the LXX has it, "And he named his name Enos; this one hoped to call upon the name of the Lord God." It seems to me that the context lends itself more to the common English reading than the others. In fact, in the first part of chapter six, just a few verses later, we are introduced to a group of individuals called "the sons of God."

Gen 6:1-2

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
- 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Two things seem obvious from the “tracks” we find here. First of all, there was a moving of the Spirit of God upon at least the descendants of Seth very early on. We who understand depravity and the totality of it realize that no single man and certainly no collection of men are going to “begin to call upon the Name of the Lord,” or “begin to call themselves by the Name of the Lord” apart from The Spirit moving upon them en masse.

Adam’s sons had his sin nature, as Cain had already proven. They were not naturally inclined to love and obey Him even though the proof of His existence and His displeasure with wickedness was clearly in front of them. Left to themselves Seth and his children would have been as wicked as Cain and his children. Something had happened to them individually but to some degree all at the same time as they determined together to seek God’s Face and call upon Him. For what? What have sinners who suddenly came to the realization of their need for God ever called to Him for? Repentance, salvation, the grace of regeneration, the enablement to obey Him and serve Him faithfully. Though I cannot show you every detail of the scenario just as the experienced guide could not show you a picture of the bear, this evidence is real and it is important.

It is just as clear that fairly quickly after the initial visitation of the Spirit upon them the sons of Seth began to lose their grip on that original intensity and long after things which displeased God.

Gen 6:3

- 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

This was the beginning of the end which resulted in the Great Flood which destroyed all of humanity but eight souls. (Sorry, but I cannot entertain you with wild stories of angels marrying humans.)

In a very real sense this model will be the one which repeats itself untold times over the course of human history. With very few exceptions, the great events that tell of times of great success among the people of God will be marked with great and powerful visitations of God which will, at least for a generation, bring His people into harmony with Himself through miracles worked in their souls by His Spirit.

Beginning with Enoch and continuing through his bloodline to Lamech, Methuselah and Noah, then down to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God seemed to move only in relatively small ways, at least so far as we have record, regenerating and sustaining individuals but not huge groups as in races or cultures. Even the great rescue of Israel from Egypt through Moses seems more in the pattern of God’s work through single individuals than a mass spiritual movement. Remember

that the crowd that came of out Egypt consistently manifested more the spirit of the unregenerate than of men moved upon by the Spirit of God.

The writer of the book of Hebrews had little positive to say about their spiritual condition.

Heb 3:7-19

- 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,
- 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
- 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.
- 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.
- 11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)
- 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
- 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
- 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
- 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.
- 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.
- 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
- 18 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?
- 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

But after 40 years in the wilderness something remarkable happened.... more bear tracks.

Josh 5:1-10

- 1 And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.
- 2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time.
- 3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.
- 4 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt.
- 5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had

- not circumcised.
- 6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey.
 - 7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way.
 - 8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole.
 - 9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.
 - 10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

God the Holy Spirit had already been at work. He had dried up the Jordan in flood stage and stripped all of the courage from the hearts of the Amorites. In a few days He was going to pull down the walls of Jericho and then march with the Israelites as the conquer the land. So, where is any evidence of a moving of His Spirit upon the hearts of the Israelites in anything like what we call an Awakening?

First of all, notice the contrast between the obedience of these and that of their fathers. The writer of Hebrews says that the first generation were not predominantly a people of faith. These folks at Gilgal obviously were, but where did that faith come from? Just like with everyone else it came from the regenerating work of the Spirit of God. Where is the evidence that this was more than 'simply' a mass conformity to a religious requirement? The Spirit of God was present in Power.

This event was ever after the hallmark of God's redeeming power. It is true that the deliverance from Egypt is an important milestone as was the giving of the Law at Sinai but the truth remains that those people for the most part were unbelievers. These Israelites at Gilgal, on the other hand, were regenerate souls who had experienced in their souls, that which the circumcision pictured, repentance from sin, which ever and always is the sure mark of the child of God.

I want to take a moment to make this case. It is always the position of those who do not understand how God works that God rewarded these people for being obedient to the commands concerning the outward sign that God had given them. Yet scripture is quite clear that the keeping of any ordinance of God, no matter how serious, without repentance and faith, is not only not received by God but is actually disdained and rejected by Him. Again, the original escapees from Egypt were circumcised but it was not mingled with faith and led to nothing more than them perishing in the wilderness.

- 25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.
- 26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?
- 27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?
- 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:
- 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

I submit to you that among those there on the plain between the Jordan and Jericho there was a moving of God which wrought circumcision of the heart of which the physical rite was a symbol. That army that enjoyed the victory was an army of repentant men. And, NO, of course, not universally.

Do you remember when God gave Saul the king victory over the Amelekites and told him to utterly destroy all that they had? Do you remember the words of Samuel to him on that occasion?

1 Sam 15:20-23

- 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
- 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.
- 22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
- 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

David knew well that the only service to God, the only real sacrifices that please Him, are worship and obedience from the heart.

Ps 51:15-17

- 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
- 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Solomon was emphatic that outward worship without repentance has no hope of anything but absolute rejection by God.

Prov 15:8

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Isaiah phrased the concept with a little more elegance but the sense of it is the same.

Isa 66:1-3

1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?
2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.
3 He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

Those who attend to the Lord's worship without repentance in their souls were as wicked as those who offered sacrifices in the idol's temple. He who "is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" is accepted with God separate and apart from the ceremonies of the temple. Otherwise we have no explanation for how Daniel was a faithful servant without access to the Temple for his entire adult life.

God made a most peculiar statement through Jeremiah of the same idea.

Jer 7:21-23

21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.
22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:
23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Micah made the same point.

Mic 6:6-8

6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matt 9:12-13

12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Even the ordinances that God Himself gave to Israel were offensive on a massive level to God when performed by a person with an unbelieving and unrepentant heart/mind. There was no merit in them, so far as He was concerned, ever.

I said all of that to make the point that the children of Israel at Gilgal were moved upon by the Spirit of Repentance and Faith and their circumcision was merely the outward sign of that inward reality. It was a revived and awakened people who took up the task of marching around Jericho at the direction of God.

All of the evidences we see are those consistent with Revival/Awakening: a restoration of the ordinances of God expressing Repentance and Faith, obedience in the absolute to the commands of God, and the Power of God in obvious manifestation through them and for them.

No, Joshua does not go into detail about their personal faith nor any kind of corporate prayer. But shall we think that these people have all, together, committed themselves to this mission without faith? If it fails it is a suicide strategy! They have no place to retreat and no place to set up defenses. God is either going to help them or they are all going to either die or spend the rest of their lives as someone's slave. Do we do violence to the text if we suggest that by far the majority of the Israelites here were personally walking with God and knowing His Presence upon their lives?

Look at the far-reaching effects of what happened that day.

Josh 24:31

31 And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

Now we know that the Spiritual Renewal of Israel was not perfect. None that I know of have ever been and it is the seeds of the demise of the Renewal that is often seen in the very early days of every Awakening/Revival. Achan disobeyed. Joshua allowed himself to be deceived. Israel did not fully drive out the Canaanites. I confess that I do not know why the Lord allows such things to happen. It is as if He has ordained a perpetual cycle of Revival and Decline. Consider again what David laid out in Psalm 107. It truly does seem to be a consistent pattern.

One thing is obvious. One generation cannot hand Revival to the next. We cannot live spiritually from the Grace that was poured out upon our grandfathers in the faith. Every new crop of humans who reach maturity are responsible for themselves to find the Fullness of God's Spirit for themselves and for their time. The reality of this blessing, when they find it, cannot be passed to others. Each person and each generation must find that special place to which we are

all called for themselves and for their time.

There is something that is interesting which was said by the historian who wrote the book of Judges.

Judg 2:1-5

- 1 And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.
- 2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?
- 3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.
- 4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.
- 5 And they called the name of that place Bochim: (*weeping*) and they sacrificed there unto the LORD.

It was devastating to the people in general that their victory would never be complete and the reason I know that is that people do not weep over that which means nothing to them. Even their weeping demonstrates a real work of God in their souls.

This abiding presence of Canannite and pagan influences would lead to the cycling behavior and experience of the Israelites over the next centuries. But the Lord had a purpose in the matter as was revealed.

Judg 2:18-23

- 18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.
- 19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.
- 20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;
- 21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:
- 22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.
- 23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

The Lord's purpose forced upon Israel a call for national spiritual renewal in every generation

and ensured profound consequences for them unless they found that renewal.

The whole history of Israel would become a series of times of declension, with its consequences, and revival as the Lord sent judges and prophets to minister to them under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every departure of people from the God Who has shown His Power to them seems a most profound act of insanity.

On one hand we cannot imagine the children of Israel dancing naked before a golden calf when God Himself had just come down on the mountain of Sinai to declare to them His Laws and they had all agreed to keep them. The very first utterance from His mouth had been to forbid that which they were doing.

Ex 20:1-6

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

How can we explain that within six weeks they had dropped their commitment to do what they had promised and had been deceived to do that which was forbidden?

Yet we know that this is the human condition. Apart from a continual infusion of spiritual enabling, that thing I call 'Grace,' there is no real capacity to keep the human heart from quickly turning aside from any real spiritual service to God and toward some corrupted form of worshiping Him or some caricature of Him. And the only way to have that constant infusion of spiritual enabling is to live in that state the scriptures call "Filled with the Spirit."

This is the only way I have found to explain the unexplainable, that which began to work itself out very soon after the death of Joshua and those elders that had served with him.

Judg 3:7-11

- 7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.
- 8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years.
- 9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a

- deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.
- 10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.
- 11 And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Forty years sort of seems to be the general time frame of any Revival. It is the time of one generation passing away and another arising. Regardless of how intensely those in the Revival experience the Power and Presence of God, their children will not absorb it by osmosis. They will find it for themselves or they will depart from the faith of their fathers, back into the sins from which their fathers had been rescued.

It is important to notice that it was apparently not the actual ones whom the Lord Revived who departed from Him but their children and grandchildren. But the stories, repeated over and over again, show us how quickly a culture can morph from a godly one to an ungodly one. Now, I would never think nor suggest that at any time every Israelite was truly converted but there were, apparently, times when enough of a majority was that the entire nation was swayed and pagan worship was abandoned along with immorality and all other violations of God's Law. (In general, *never perfectly*.)

We read again of Ehud when Israel sinned again during the days of Eglon, King of Moab, Judges 3:12-30. "The children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel." And this continued until "the children of Israel cried unto the Lord," v.15. And, we should ask here as well as every other time this phrase appears, "was their crying to God sincere and from the heart or merely outward contrition because of difficult circumstances?"

And, other questions come to our minds. "Does God ever hear and bless prayers that are insincere?" "Does He raise up men to deliver people whose only interest in Him is to ease the difficulties which their sins have brought upon them?" If we think so, then we have a real problem with our understanding of Works and Grace as well as our general understanding of how God works.

Shall I speak of others; Deborah and Barak, Gideon and his 300, Tola, Jephtha, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, and, finally, Samuel? Each story varies in detail from the other but spiritually they are almost identical. Israel would sin, their enemies would overthrow them, their sins would be exposed, God would send His Spirit so that they cried out in true repentance and faith, then He would raise up a man to save them and pour out His power to strengthen their armies and defeat their enemies.

I do not see how we could make a real case here for anything but a general revival among the children of Israel, a real understanding of how they had sinned, and a wide spread and sincere repentance for their wickedness. But how does that happen? Do morally corrupt and wicked people suddenly decide to change their own hearts, all at the same time, and manage to attract the attention of God by their sincerity? Or, does God act by a mighty movement of His Spirit to

grant spiritual understanding, real repentance, and genuine faith to a large group of people so that they might call upon Him in the very ways that He has ordained as proper for men to call upon Him?

If this is true then the history of Israel was one of massive revivals followed by times of declension as the revived ones died off and their children or their grandchildren replaced them. It is baffling beyond description as to why God has chosen this means of propagating His Kingdom but I think the evidence speaks for itself.

The same pattern repeated itself during the days of the kings and the prophets, that familiar roller coaster of Revival, Declension, Sin and Departure, Judgment, Renewal, Repentance, and Restoration.

We know of at least one Awakening that occurred among Gentile people at Nineveh during the strange ministry of Jonah.

Finally, God sent the northern 10 tribes into oblivion and the southern kingdom into captivity.

We might note that there was a spiritual resurgence in the partial restoration of Israel but no further great movements of the Spirit of God are found in history until the ministry of John, then Jesus, and finally, the Day of Pentecost.

Do you doubt that John's ministry qualifies as a Revival/Awakening?

Matt 3:1-6

- 1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 **Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,**
- 6 **And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.**

I think that qualifies. I would revel in such a moving of God upon North Mississippi.

Does Jesus' ministry qualify?

John 4:1-4

- 1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,
- 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)
- 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.
- 4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

He was baptizing more than John and then you know what happened in Samaria.

So, right up through the early ministry of Jesus we have record of this phenomena, God's Spirit moving in power upon large groups of people rendering them broken hearted over their sins and looking to God in true faith.

The reason I am making this case is that there seems to be a disdain and lack of interest among people who claim to be God's children in seeking after a moving of God in our time.

In the next message I will be reviewing some of the great movements of God from Pentecost until the last century and demonstrating how that a major tool of God in the advancement of His Kingdom in our era has been along the same model He used in Israel.

I suspect that there are many who look on efforts such as ours as some kind of oddity, some aberration of Christianity, something outside the expectations of many who consider themselves orthodox in our day.

I am sure that there are those who scoff at what we are attempting here. But, honestly, I see no other path than this one. We are not going to see our generation and that of our kids saved by simply continuing the patterns we have inherited. We must have something different and that in a powerful way.

May the Lord send upon us that which He has sent upon His people in days gone by.

Consider again some of the words of David as he saw this pattern in the movements of God to bring men out of sin and pride, Ps 107.

Ps 107:1-9

- 1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;
- 3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.
- 4 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.
- 5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.
- 6 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.
- 7 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.
- 8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- 9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

He puts them in low places that they might call upon Him. I guarantee He can take us lower than we are, wherever He must to cause us to call upon Him in the Way that He demands to be called upon before He answers in Power.

Would it not be so much better if we found that intensity now to call upon Him that we will have when there is nothing to eat and nowhere to hide from the persecuting mobs?