

## Dr. David Emanuel, Exodus Psalms, Session 3, Psalm 105 – Remember and Obey Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Emanuel, Psalms, Session 3, Psalm 105 – Remember and Obey, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. David Emanuel's Session 3 on Exodus Psalm 105, entitled "Remember and Obey," explores the psalm's historical context and structure. The teaching emphasizes the psalm's focus on God's promise to Abraham and its fulfillment, highlighting instances where God intervenes to protect this promise. Emanuel draws attention to the psalm's use of biblical allusion, connecting specific phrases to earlier texts like Genesis. Unlike Psalm 78, Psalm 105 presents a consistently positive view of the Exodus, omitting negative events such as Israelite rebellions. The session also examines the significance of land in the psalm and notes the elevation of God's role in events like the famine and the plagues, portraying Him as the orchestrator of all happenings. Ultimately, the psalm emphasizes both God's faithfulness and the people's obligation to obey His laws.

**2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Emanuel, Session 3 – Double click icon to play in Windows  
media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and  
click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Psalms &  
Wisdom → Psalms).**



**Emanuel\_ExPss\_Ses  
sion03.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Emanuel, Exodus Psalms, Session 3, Psalm 105 – Remember and Obey

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. David Emanuel's Session 3 lecture on Psalm 105, "Remember and Obey."

#### **Briefing Document: Psalm 105 - Remember and Obey**

**Source:** Excerpts from "Emanuel\_EN\_Session03\_Psalm105.pdf" (Dr. David Emanuel, Session 3, Exodus Psalm 105, © 2024 David Emanuel and Ted Hildebrandt)

**Overview:** Dr. Emanuel analyzes Psalm 105, contrasting it with Psalm 78. While Psalm 78 focuses primarily on the Exodus and highlights Israel's rebellions, Psalm 105 emphasizes the Abrahamic covenant and presents a largely positive view of the Exodus narrative, focusing on God's faithfulness to His promise. A key element is the use of *biblical allusion*, where the psalmist uses specific phrases to connect the reader back to earlier texts and their contexts.

#### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

- **Remember and Obey:** This is the central theme. Remembering God's actions is not merely a mental exercise, but should lead to practical action and changed behavior. The psalm concludes by emphasizing obedience to God's statutes and laws as a response to His faithfulness. "Biblical remembrance is not something that resides in the mind...it's always intended to have a practical action attached to it."
- **The Abrahamic Covenant as the Driving Force:** The psalm connects the Exodus to the promise made to Abraham in Genesis, positioning the Exodus as God's active intervention to protect and fulfill that promise. "God makes a promise to Abraham and throughout the rest of the psalm, we see that promise in danger and we see God coming to defend it and protect it until it's brought through to fruition." The focus is on the promise of land.
- **Positive Portrayal of the Exodus:** Unlike Psalm 78, Psalm 105 omits the negative aspects of the Exodus story, such as Israelite rebellions and complaints. This selective presentation aims to highlight God's faithfulness and power. "In this psalm, we struggle to see anything negative at all. The whole Exodus is viewed as a positive experience from the beginning."

- **Biblical Allusion:** The psalmist uses specific phrases and words to allude to earlier biblical narratives, activating the reader's knowledge of those stories and enriching the meaning of the psalm. Examples include:
  - The phrase "a few men in number" connecting to Genesis 34 and Jacob's fear of being attacked. "So, it is clear that what the author is doing is he's activating the reader's mind."
  - The reference to "prophets" and "anointed ones," alluding to the story of Abraham and Abimelech, where Abraham is called a prophet.
- **God's Sovereignty and Control:** The psalm emphasizes God's direct intervention and control over events. God is not just present, but actively orchestrating everything to fulfill His purposes. "Throughout the whole of this psalm, we see it's almost as though events take place on the earth...the strings going up to a master puppeteer who is God and he is controlling every situation that happens."
- **The Plagues as a Demonstration of God's Power:** The psalm includes a rendition of the plagues, though only listing seven. The plague of the firstborn is presented as the ultimate plague, demonstrating God's unique power and selectivity. There's a suggestion of gradual intensification of the plagues.
- **The Significance of "Thanks":** Giving thanks goes beyond simply saying "thank you". It requires a declaration, a recital of exactly what God has done. The Hebrew word "todah" implies confession and speaking out.
- **Inclusio Using "Egypt":** The psalmist cleverly uses the word "Egypt" at the beginning and end of the section describing Israel's time in Egypt, creating an *inclusio* that separates and emphasizes this specific period. "What the psalmist has basically done is he's used the word, if this is the psalm... Then he uses the word Egypt and then he goes into his description."
- **Post-Exilic Context (Possible):** It is suggested that the psalm may have been written during or after the exile, explaining the focus on the promise of land. "It has been argued that the Psalm was written after the exile... So, it may have been written at a time when the Israelites did not have their own land and they are remembering this promise of land that was given to them."
- **Chiastic Structure:** The psalmist employs chiasmic structures, particularly at the end of key sections, to emphasize specific messages.

#### Interpretive Notes:

- **Ambiguity in "The King Sent":** Emanuel suggests an alternative reading of verse 20 ("The king sent and released him"), arguing that "the king" could refer to God, emphasizing God's ultimate control. "I argue, as I've argued before, that there are at least two ways of reading this...we could just as easily read that God sent."
- **Cloud as Covering:** The description of the cloud as a covering, rather than simply a guide (as in Exodus), reflects a different tradition that emphasizes God's protective care.

### **Conclusion:**

Psalm 105 presents a carefully constructed narrative emphasizing God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham and His active role in delivering Israel from Egypt. By selectively presenting events and employing biblical allusions, the psalmist encourages the reader to remember God's deeds and respond with obedience.

## 4. Study Guide: Emanuel, Exodus Psalms, Session 3, Psalm 105 – Remember and Obey

### Study Guide: Psalm 105 - Remember and Obey

#### I. Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the primary focus of Psalm 105 in relation to the Exodus narrative?
2. How does Psalm 105 connect the Exodus motif to the Abrahamic covenant?
3. How does the concept of "biblical remembrance" function within Psalm 105, and how does it differ from modern notions of remembrance?
4. What are some of the ways in which the psalmist utilizes biblical allusion in Psalm 105? Give an example of one and its significance.
5. How does Psalm 105 portray God's role in the events of the Exodus, particularly in comparison to the book of Exodus itself?
6. What is "inclusio," and how is it used with the word "Egypt" in Psalm 105?
7. How does the psalmist order and present the plagues in Psalm 105, and what might this ordering suggest?
8. What is the significance of the plague of the firstborn within the context of Psalm 105, and how does it differ from the other plagues?
9. In Psalm 105, how is the threat to the Israelites depicted before and after the Exodus, and from where do these threats originate?
10. What is the ultimate purpose of God's faithfulness, according to the conclusion of Psalm 105?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Psalm 105 focuses on God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promise to Abraham and defending his people. It views the entire Exodus as a positive experience, highlighting God's intervention and protection.
2. Psalm 105 connects the Exodus motif to the Abrahamic covenant by presenting the Exodus as the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham concerning land

and descendants. The psalm emphasizes God's commitment to this covenant throughout the narrative.

3. Biblical remembrance is not merely a mental act but a process that leads to practical action and changed behavior. It involves remembering God's deeds to inspire obedience and transform one's actions.
4. One example is the allusion to Genesis 34 when the psalmist says "when they were only a few men in number." This connects to Jacob's fear of being attacked and highlights how the promise was in danger of being nullified.
5. Psalm 105 portrays God as being in total control of all events. He calls for famine, enacts the plagues directly, and orchestrates everything according to his will.
6. "Inclusio" is a literary device used to bookend a section of text. In Psalm 105, the psalmist strategically places the word "Egypt" at the beginning and end of the section describing the Israelites' time in Egypt, while avoiding its use within the section.
7. The psalmist presents the plagues in an order that seems to reflect a growing intensity, from the less severe darkness to the ultimate plague of the firstborn. Some interpret this as God getting "more angry" with each plague.
8. The plague of the firstborn is significant because it is seen as an act that only God could perform, unlike the other plagues that could potentially be explained by natural phenomena. It emphasizes God's selective power and holiness.
9. Before the Exodus, the threat comes from people such as kings. After the Exodus, the threat shifts to creation (sun, hunger, thirst).
10. The ultimate purpose of God's faithfulness is for the people to keep his statutes and observe his laws. It emphasizes that God's actions are meant to inspire obedience and service to him.

## II. Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following essay questions in a well-structured essay format.

1. Analyze the portrayal of God in Psalm 105, comparing and contrasting it with the portrayal of God in the book of Exodus. How does the psalm elevate God's role, and what is the effect of this elevation on the overall message of the psalm?
2. Discuss the use of biblical allusion in Psalm 105. How does the psalmist use allusions to Genesis and other parts of the Hebrew Bible to enrich the meaning of the psalm and engage the reader's knowledge of the biblical narrative?
3. Examine the theme of remembrance in Psalm 105. How does the psalm use the concept of remembrance to shape the reader's understanding of God's faithfulness and the Israelites' responsibility?
4. Compare and contrast Psalm 105 with Psalm 78. What are the key differences in their perspectives on the Exodus narrative, and what do these differences reveal about the psalmist's respective purposes and audiences?
5. Assess the significance of the ending of Psalm 105 (verse 45) in relation to the rest of the psalm. How does the psalmist use the conclusion to emphasize the importance of obedience and highlight the reciprocal relationship between God and his people?

### III. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Biblical Allusion:** An indirect reference to a person, place, event, or passage from the Bible, used to enrich meaning and evoke associations in the reader's mind.
- **Exodus Motif:** The recurring theme or narrative of the Exodus, including the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt and their journey to the Promised Land.
- **Abrahamic Covenant:** The promise God made to Abraham in Genesis, involving land, descendants, and divine protection.
- **Post-Exilic:** Referring to the period after the Babylonian exile of the Israelites (after 539 BCE).
- **Inclusio:** A literary device in which a word, phrase, or theme is repeated at the beginning and end of a section of text, creating a sense of closure and highlighting the section's main idea.
- **Niflahot/Gedulot:** Hebrew words used to describe miracles or wondrous deeds.
- **Todah/Hoda'a:** Hebrew words for "thanks," carrying the sense of confession and public declaration of gratitude.
- **Arov:** A Hebrew word used in the context of the plagues, often translated as "swarms" and sometimes interpreted as wild animals or flies.
- **Chiasmus:** A literary device in which words, phrases, or concepts are arranged in a parallel structure that inverts the order, creating an ABBA pattern for emphasis.
- **Synonyms:** A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language.



## 5. FAQs on Emanuel, Exodus Psalms, Session 1, Session 3, Psalm 105 – Remember and Obey, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

### FAQ on Psalm 105: Remember and Obey

- **What is the main theme of Psalm 105, and how does it differ from Psalm 78?**
- Psalm 105 focuses on God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promise to Abraham and protecting his people so the promise would be secured. This contrasts with Psalm 78, which primarily emphasizes Israel's rebellion against God despite the miracles they witnessed during the Exodus. Psalm 105 presents a consistently positive view of the Exodus, omitting negative events and rebellions, while Psalm 78 highlights both God's actions and Israel's failings. Additionally, Psalm 105 begins with the promise to Abraham in Genesis and moves through to the entry into the promised land, while Psalm 78 focuses mostly on the Exodus motif.
- **How does Psalm 105 use biblical allusion, and what is its effect on the reader?**
- Psalm 105 employs biblical allusion by referencing specific phrases or events from earlier texts, like Genesis. For example, the phrase "few in number" alludes to Jacob's fear in Genesis 34 after his sons' actions, and the mention of a "prophet" in connection with the patriarchs alludes to Abraham's encounter with Abimelech. These allusions activate the reader's knowledge of the broader biblical narrative, enriching the psalm's meaning and reinforcing the idea that God's protection of his promise has been consistent throughout history. The Psalmist depends on the reader's knowledge of the biblical text in order to comprehend the Psalm.
- **What is the significance of "remembrance" in Psalm 105, and how does it differ from modern understanding?**
- In Psalm 105, remembrance is not merely a mental act of recalling past events. Instead, it is a process that begins in the mind but is intended to lead to practical action and changed behavior. Remembering God's deeds should motivate individuals to live differently and align their actions with God's will. This contrasts with modern understanding, where remembrance is often seen as a passive, nostalgic reflection on the past.

- **How does Psalm 105 portray God's role in the events of the Exodus and the journey to the Promised Land?**
- Psalm 105 elevates God's role, presenting Him as the master puppeteer controlling every event to fulfill His purposes. Unlike the Exodus account, where some events seem to occur naturally, Psalm 105 attributes them directly to God's actions. For example, God "called for a famine," and God "caused his people to be fruitful." This emphasizes God's sovereignty and active involvement in history, ensuring the protection of both His people and His promise. The elevation of God's role was not present in Psalm 78 or Psalm 106.
- **What is the significance of the inclusio using the word "Egypt" in Psalm 105?**
- The use of the word "Egypt" to mark the beginning and end of a section of the psalm creates an inclusio. This literary device serves to segregate and emphasize the text within that section, which describes Israel's time in Egypt. By avoiding the use of the word "Egypt" within that section, the psalmist draws attention to the period of dwelling in the land until their exit.
- **How does Psalm 105 present the plagues of Egypt, and what is the overall structure or intensity of the plague narrative?**
- Psalm 105 presents a selection of seven plagues, emphasizing God's direct action in bringing them about. The plagues are portrayed with a degree of intensity, possibly building up in severity from the relatively harmless darkness to the ultimate plague of the firstborn. While the other plagues could be attributed to natural phenomena, the plague of the firstborn is presented as a uniquely divine act demonstrating God's power and holiness. Also, only Psalms 105 and 78 give a full rendition of the plagues.
- **What is the main point or lesson that Psalm 105 intends to convey to its readers, especially in verse 45?**
- The key lesson of Psalm 105 is that God is faithful in fulfilling his promises, but that faithfulness demands a response of obedience from those who receive the benefits of those promises. Verse 45 emphasizes that the purpose of God's faithfulness in bringing the Israelites into the Promised Land was so that "they might keep his statutes and observe his laws." The Psalm is calling the reader to remember and obey.

- **What is the significance of the chiastic structure that occurs at the end of Psalm 105?**
- The chiastic structure at the end of Psalm 105 serves to emphasize the central message of the psalm. By framing the call to obedience—"keep his statutes and observe his laws"—in a chiastic pattern, the psalmist draws attention to this key point, reinforcing the idea that God's faithfulness demands a response of obedience from his people.