

## Psalm 107 Part 4

### Table Psalm 107:23-32

- 23 *They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;*  
24 *These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.*  
25 *For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.*  
26 *They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.*  
27 *They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.*  
28 *Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.*  
29 *He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.*  
30 *Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.*  
31 *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*  
32 *Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Volume II of the Book of Psalms* pp 846-852 for details.

This writer's sub-title for **Psalm 107 Part 4** is:

#### **Psalm 107:23-32 Seafarers in Distress**

#### **Notes on Table Psalm 107:23-32**

1. **Psalm 107:23-24.** Psalm 107:23-24 are well illustrated by Psalm 104:24-27 "**O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.**"

Psalm 104:25, 27 "**this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts...These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season**" does not appear to include all mariners aboard ship, Psalm 104:26, namely "**They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters**" Psalm 107:23.

It appears that in their preoccupation with business ventures many have set aside James 4:13-16 "**Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil**" as the following scriptures show that have up to *threefold* application, prophetic, historical and even *pre-historical* – see *Genesis 1:1-3* by Jeffrey A. Tibbetts, ISBN 0-9708974-0-7, Chapter 7 *The Sons of God, gods, children of the Most High*. Ezekiel 27 on godless, ancient Tyrus with various nations mentioned that no doubt have their modern counterparts readily depicts godless, modern global maritime trade and commerce, even with singing advertisements as inserted in radio and on TV, see below.

Note that for the modern era the early thrust of European political power, commerce, and culture in Asia gave rise to a growing trade in lucrative commodities - a key development in the rise of today's modern world capitalist economy... See **Maritime History** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime\\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_history).

See these scriptures for historical and present-day application to pre-occupation with maritime wealth.

**“Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus; And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles...”** Ezekiel 27:2-3.

**“The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad were thy mariners: thy wise men, O Tyrus, that were in thee, were thy pilots. The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to occupy thy merchandise”** Ezekiel 27:8-9.

**“The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas”** Ezekiel 27:25.

The sense of the above scriptures is the glorification of modern maritime mammon and not **“giving glory to God”** Romans 4:20, see James 4:13-16 above, thereby incurring the condemnation of Romans 1:21 **“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”** God's judgement fell on ancient Tyrus and *will fall* on modern maritime mammon as a succession of perfect storms.

2. **Psalm 107:25-27.** Psalm 107:25-27 come to pass as follows, historically for ancient Tyrus, prophetically in the End Times for glorying in maritime mammon and not **“giving glory to God”** Romans 4:20. Note that it is the *guides* of ancient Tyrus and modern maritime mammon that provoke God's judgement as with Israel as in Isaiah 3:12 **“O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths”** that are therefore no longer **“paths of righteousness”** Psalm 23:3 but **“wasting and destruction are in their paths”** Isaiah 59:7 *from God*.

**“Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas. Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin”** Ezekiel 27:26-27.

**“And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?...In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall”** Ezekiel 27:32, 34.

The Lord has this warning for those in the End Times *and spiritually now* for whom under God's judgement as above **“their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end”** Psalm 107:26-27. This is the warning.

**“Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver”** Psalm 50:22. Some heed that warning. See below.



The Clipper Ship “Flying Cloud” off the Needles, Isle of Wight, on the southern English coast. Painting by James E. Buttersworth.

3. **Psalm 107:28-30.** Psalm 107:28 is the heartfelt prayer for deliverance from trouble and God's answer as in Psalm 107:6, 13, 19. Psalm 107:28 refers to maritime trouble in the context but it states a principle for both a repentant End Times mariner seeking safe harbour and finding it and a repentant sinner now seeking salvation and finding it. The principle is as follows.

**“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation”** Psalm 91:14-15. That principle in both the above respects is well illustrated by Jonah's mariners and Peter. Even though Peter had but **“little faith”** it was sufficient that the Lord immediately caught him and it was calm, as it will be for any sinking soul seeking salvation. You will be the Lord's 'catch' and His palm via **“the print of the nails”** John 20:25 will ensure your calm insofar as **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** Romans 5:1.

**“Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows”** Jonah 1:14-16.

**“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased”** Matthew 14:30-32.

Psalm 107:29 **“He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still”** is best illustrated by the Lord Jesus Christ for both the End Times mariner seeking safe harbour and today's believer spiritually seeking **“for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain”** Isaiah 4:6 by means of **“the peace of God, that passeth all understanding”** Philippians 4:7.

**“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm”** Mark 4:39. See the attached item **God Stays the Sea**.

Psalm 107:30 **“Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven”** is special for this writer. See the attached item **Desired Haven**. For the End Times mariner seeking safe harbour and today's believer seeking solace note the psalmist's reassurance so **“Let these sayings sink down into your ears”** Luke 9:44. **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah”** Psalm 46:1, 7, 11.

4. **Psalm 107:31-32.** Psalm 107:31 is King David's exhortation to praise and worship of the Lord as in Psalm 107:8, 15, 21 in accordance with 1 Samuel 12:24 **“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”** See studies *Psalm 107 Parts 1-3*. Psalm 107:32 prophetically looks forward to heavenly worship in which today's believer is assured of taking part insofar as **“...God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”** Ephesians 2:4, 6.

**“And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that lieth for ever and ever”** Revelation 5:13-14.

Therefore **“Fear God, and give glory to him...and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”** Revelation 14:7 **“That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth”** Ephesians 6:3.

## God Stays the Sea

Job 38:11 *“...Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed...”*

is a good reminder of the navy hymn:

*Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

See:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDjwUzUnNpU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDjwUzUnNpU)  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal\\_Father,\\_Strong\\_to\\_Save](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Father,_Strong_to_Save).



Roker Lighthouse, Sunderland

Note that the word *brood* in the third stanza is wrong and should be *move*, Genesis 1:2. Apart from that, the hymn is scriptural.

The Youtube soundtrack is from Easington Lane Independent Methodist Church, Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear. The lighthouse is Roker Lighthouse, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, Northeast England. (The lighthouse appears from the graphic in the soundtrack to have undergone some refurbishment since the above photo was taken.

This is in fact the case [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roker#Lighthouses\\_and\\_pier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roker#Lighthouses_and_pier).)

Though best known as *The Navy Hymn*, the hymn is applicable as a prayer for all of God's saints who are pilgrims in *“this present evil world”* Galatians 1:4 as Isaiah explains.

*“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt”* Isaiah 57:20.

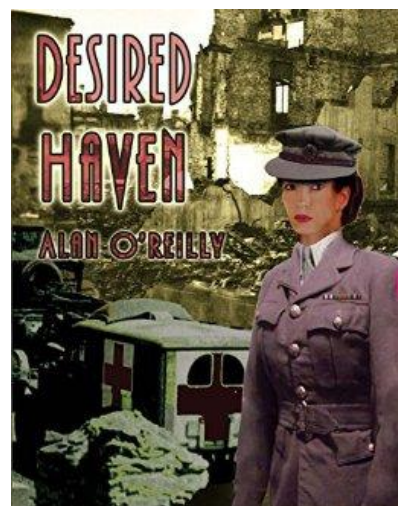
Job 38:11 is therefore a reminder that the scripture addresses reality, especially with respect to suffering, as in the case of Job, Job 1, 2.

## Desired Haven

See:

[www.amazon.co.uk/Desired-Haven-Alan-J-OReilly-ebook/dp/B00YERQOUK](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Desired-Haven-Alan-J-OReilly-ebook/dp/B00YERQOUK)

“Seems like trouble’s your middle name, McGrath.” You could understand why Matron said that: Nursing Officer Colleen McGrath has seen plenty of trouble. When her commanding officer in Italy charges her with “intolerable” behavior towards the Chaplaincy, and she’s facing court martial, she escapes by transferring to the Far East. In less than a month, she dodges strafing, bombing, shipwreck, and a knife attack. In Calcutta’s Grand Hotel, she breaks a vase over the head of a drunken Special Forces officer, nearly creating an international incident. And on the Gothic Line in Italy, then in Burma, she sees enough blood and mayhem to last a lifetime.



Colleen is still only twenty-three at the war’s end, but her troubles aren’t over. Not by a long way. The Great Enemy sometimes targets particular individuals. Colleen is one. Yet she may yet find grace abounding - and her desired haven - with the man she loves.

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”* Jeremiah 29:11.