

**November 22, 2009**  
**"A PLEASANT LAND", *Daily Disciple*, page 335**



**PSALM**

<sup>24</sup> Then they despised the pleasant land;  
they did not believe his promise.

<sup>25</sup> They grumbled in their tents  
and did not obey the LORD.

(Psalm 106:24-25)

**MEDITATION**

Give the earth peace, O God, and crown the year with increase. Fill our land with piety, virtue, and contentment. Rule, in your fear, the hearts of those who are our rulers. Be pleased to guide the young in your ways of pleasantness. Let the parched places of your church be revived with grace. Widen the boundaries of your kingdom.

(J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 168)

**SCRIPTURE**

<sup>18</sup> "In that day the mountains will drip new wine,  
and the hills will flow with milk;  
all the ravines of Judah will run with water.  
A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house  
and will water the valley of acacias.

<sup>19</sup> But Egypt will be desolate,  
Edom a desert waste,  
because of violence done to the people of Judah,  
in whose land they shed innocent blood.

<sup>20</sup> Judah will be inhabited forever  
and Jerusalem through all generations.

(Joel 3:18-20)

**PRAYER**

"God of the nations, lead your people throughout the earth into the pleasant land of your kingdom, through the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. This devotional message focuses on blessings that God bestows on his faithful people.
2. Read Psalm 106 and answer the following questions:
  - a. What phrase is repeated at the beginning and at the end of this psalm?
  - b. The goodness of the Lord is a major motif/theme running through this entire Psalm. Go through and make a list of the good things that the Psalmist lists that God did for his people.
  - c. It is in the context of God's goodness that the Psalmist admits that God's covenant people were not faithful. Again, go through this Psalm and highlight the phrases that demonstrate this unfaithfulness.
  - d. It is in this larger context that verses 24 and 25 occur.
    - 1) How did Israel despise the pleasant land?
    - 2) Why did she not believe God's promises?
    - 3) What did they do in their tents?
    - 4) Can you think of specific ways that Israel did not obey the Lord?
  - e. Think about this: Since we no longer live under a theocracy (God as Sovereign Ruler over a patch of land, like Israel in Palestine), what relationship does our faith have to our land now?
  - f. The core spiritual issue here is grumbling against God's provisions. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. What can we learn about grumbling and complaining?
3. In G.H. Garrison's meditation he petitions God to fill our land with three things: piety, virtue, and contentment. What does each one of these things mean? If you could ask God to fill our land with three things, what would be on your list and why?
4. The Scripture reading is a prophetic passage taken from Joel in the Old Testament.
  - a. Chapter 3:18 is very poetic language describing God's blessing in the land of His people.
  - b. Describe each blessing.
5. Below are the words to the song *God Bless America*. Notice the references to land and blessings tied to it. Can we as Christians pray this as a prayer?

God Bless America,  
Land that I love.  
Stand beside her, and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam  
God bless America, My home sweet home.

6. According to Joel 3:19 why are Edom and Egypt desolate?
7. Discuss whether or not bad things happen to America because of her national sins. Are Christians responsible for national lapses of morality? Does God NOT bless America because of this?