

Psalm 66:1–20

- 1 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!
- 2 Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.
- 3 Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.
- 4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.” Selah
- 5 Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.
- 6 He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.
- 7 He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah
- 8 Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,
- 9 Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.
- 10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.
- 11 You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.
- 12 You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.
- 13 I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows,
- 14 Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.
- 15 I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah
- 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.
- 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.
- 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.
- 19 But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

Glory and Praise to God

Psalm 66:1-20

INTRO:

What do you know about **Psalm 66**? No doubt you remember **Psalm 66:18**. *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”* This is a verse I learned as a boy and had to learn again in personal evangelism class at Moody Bible Institute. But what is the rest of the Psalm about? You might be surprised. It is a Psalm of great joy and praise sung to God for all He has done. It begins with all creation and ends with one person. Listen as the Psalmist sings to Him.

I. Everyone Shall Glorify God (v. 1-4)

II. God’s Covenant People will Praise Him (v. 5-12)

III. I Will Glorify God (v. 13-20)

I. Everyone Shall Glorify God (v. 1-4)

Psalm 66:1-4 *“Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awe filled are Your works Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.’ Selah”*

A. The Psalm calls all people in all the world to recognize and praise the wonder of God. All people of the earth are to make a great shout of praise because of Who He is. They are to sing in honor of His name.

“Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name;”

In the Old Testament times many false gods were seen as localized deities. They controlled cities or domains but not the whole world. Our God created and sustained all the world. The name here is Elohim. He is the all-powerful, all-sustaining God. He can do all things.

B. ***“Make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awe filled are Your works.”***

The very things God does are so great and marvelous they are scary. Remember the earthquake in San Francisco during the World Series in the eighties, or the great hurricanes which did great destruction when they made land fall? Not only are natural disasters awe inspiring, I remember driving past the mountains of northern New Hampshire. They too can take one’s breath away. Do we ever do what the Psalmist describes when we say to God, *“Look at your incredible works.”*

C. ***“Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.’ Selah”***

All of God’s enemies will someday fall before Him and they shall acknowledge He is God and beside Him there is no other. This brings to mind a verse in the midst of Habakkuk 2.

Habakkuk 2:14 ***“For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.”***

In the midst of shattering prediction of the end of his world, God gave Habakkuk a wonderful promise. The world will all know Him as He is and bow to Him. Remember **Philippians 2:9-11?**

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

II. God’s Covenant People will Praise Him (v. 5-12)

Psalm 66:5-7 ***“Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men. He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.”***

A. The second section falls into two parts. First, the Psalmist calls on the people of the world (the Gentiles) to take notice of what God has done for His people.

“Come and see the works of God; He is awe inspiring in His doing toward the sons of men.”

We will discover the sons of men the Psalmist sings about are God’s covenant people. The Lord always gives us reason to consider His greatness. Remember **John 1** both with the disciples of the Baptist and later Nathaniel were invited to ***“come and see.”*** Even here God is not trying to hide what He is doing. On the contrary He wants all to see what He has done.

1. What does the Psalmist wish them to see?

“He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the river on foot.”

Two places in the Bible are meant. First is the crossing of the Reed Sea the second is the Jordan River. Much more is included here by reference.

2. ***“There we will rejoice in Him. He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.”***

Notice suddenly the word ***“we”*** appears. The Psalmist is one of this special group to whom God has shown great power, protection, and blessing. The

people of God only exist because God has preserved them. Now comes a musical interlude so we may think on these things.

B. Yet, part of God's great blessing of His people is their great trial and deliverance. ***"Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved. For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment."***

1. This is amazing. **Verses 8-9** we jump on and have the joy lift us as we celebrate the praise and Glory of God. He has truly done great things for us. ***"Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved."***
We want our praise to be loud and boisterous.

2. However, look why we need to glorify our God in **verses 10-12**. ***"O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment."***

God must be glorified in the hard spots in the road. Why? Because He teaches us things in the valley of the shadow of death we can learn in no other way. **1 Peter 1:6-7** ***"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, in order that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,"***

God will bless us by fulfilling His promises.

III. I Will Glorify God (v. 13-20)

"I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah."

A. In this symphony of praise and glory, we have heard how the peoples, who do not know God personally, need to glorify His name. We also heard how we the covenant people of God must glorify and praise God for His works on our behalf. We must glorify Him for His blessings (positive) and for His purifying us in the furnace like silver. Now we come at last to the one.

“I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows.”

No longer is it “we”, it is “I.”

B. The language of this personal worship is Levitical. The Psalmist will come the way God provided to commit himself to God. The burnt offerings were offerings offered completely to God. This was full commitment. If he offered these animals, it also was a very expensive offering.

“I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah.”

Our worship is acceptable if it comes from a heart completely committed to Him. After we listen to the musical interlude for a while and consider this, the Psalmist continued.

C. ***“Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His [steadfast love] from me!”***

This Psalmist like all of us is aware that he is a sinner and God is entirely holy. Will God receive his offering and commitment?

D. Look at what God did for my soul. He heard me when I talked to Him with my tongue.

“And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His [steadfast love] from me!”

1. His logic is blessed. In effect, he wrote, ***“I know that if I entertain willful sin in my heart, God will not hear me.”*** God should have turned His back on me.

2. But He did not. Rather, He heard my prayer.

“But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer.”

The Psalmist says, what I had no right to even expect, God did for me. He did not turn my prayer away or His steadfast love away from me.

What Do We Take From This?

1. While all the peoples of the world should give glory to God, many do not. But someday they will.

2. We, as God's people, must remember all the things that God did for us. We should glorify Him for the good and the bad.

3. But all this praise and glory for the benefit begins in each of our hearts. Even though we are sinners, He made provision for us so we may glorify Him and our worship would be acceptable to Him.

Hymn #4 *Great Thou Art*