

“Let God Arise” Psalm 68

Psalm 68 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.

- ¹ Let God arise,
Let His enemies be scattered;
Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.
 - ² As smoke is driven away,
So drive *them* away;
As wax melts before the fire,
So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
 - ³ But let the righteous be glad;
Let them rejoice before God;
Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.
 - ⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to His name;
Extol Him who rides on the clouds,
By His name YAH,
And rejoice before Him.
 - ⁵ A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows,
Is God in His holy habitation.
 - ⁶ God sets the solitary in families;
He brings out those who are bound into prosperity;
But the rebellious dwell in a dry *land*.
 - ⁷ O God, when You went out before Your people,
When You marched through the wilderness,
- Selah
- ⁸ The earth shook;
The heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God;
Sinai itself *was moved* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
 - ⁹ You, O God, sent a plentiful rain,
Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance,
When it was weary.
 - ¹⁰ Your congregation dwelt in it;
You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor.
 - ¹¹ The Lord gave the word;

- Great *was* the company of those who proclaimed *it*:
12 “Kings of armies flee, they flee,
And she who remains at home divides the spoil.
13 Though you lie down among the sheepfolds,
You will be like the wings of a dove covered with silver,
And her feathers with yellow gold.”
14 When the Almighty scattered kings in it,
It was *white* as snow in Zalmon.
- 15 A mountain of God *is* the mountain of Bashan;
A mountain *of many* peaks *is* the mountain of Bashan.
16 Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of *many* peaks?
This is the mountain *which* God desires to dwell in;
Yes, the LORD will dwell *in it* forever.
- 17 The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand,
Even thousands of thousands;
The Lord is among them *as in* Sinai, in the Holy *Place*.
18 You have ascended on high,
You have led captivity captive;
You have received gifts among men,
Even from the rebellious,
That the LORD God might dwell *there*.
- 19 Blessed *be* the Lord,
Who daily loads us *with benefits*,
The God of our salvation!
- Selah
- 20 Our God *is* the God of salvation;
And to GOD the Lord *belong* escapes from death.
- 21 But God will wound the head of His enemies,
The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses.
22 The Lord said, “I will bring back from Bashan,
I will bring *them* back from the depths of the sea,
23 That your foot may crush *them* in blood,
And the tongues of your dogs *may have* their portion from *your* enemies.”
- 24 They have seen Your procession, O God,
The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.

25 The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after;
Among *them were* the maidens playing timbrels.

26 Bless God in the congregations,
The Lord, from the fountain of Israel.

27 There *is* little Benjamin, their leader,
The princes of Judah *and* their company,
The princes of Zebulun *and* the princes of Naphtali.

28 Your God has commanded your strength;
Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us.

29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem,
Kings will bring presents to You.

30 Rebuke the beasts of the reeds,
The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples,
Till everyone submits himself with pieces of silver.
Scatter the peoples *who* delight in war.

31 Envoys will come out of Egypt;
Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
Oh, sing praises to the Lord,

Selah

33 To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens, *which were* of old!
Indeed, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice.

34 Ascribe strength to God;
His excellence *is* over Israel,
And His strength *is* in the clouds.

35 O God, *You are* more awesome than Your holy places.
The God of Israel *is* He who gives strength and power to *His* people.

Blessed *be* God!

I started working on this sermon Thursday morning and all of a sudden I realize
it is dark outside

I was loving this passage ...

I. God haters be gone -

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song. ¹ Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. ² As smoke is driven away, So drive *them* away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God. Psalm 68:1-2 (NKJV)

1. There are times it SEEMS God is sleeping –

A. He never sleeps –

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121:4 (NKJV)

B. Yet at times God seems absent, evil seems to be winning, David seems to be talking of such a time –

“Arise.” The mercifulness of God is seen in his patience toward the wicked, implied in the word *“arise,”* for he seemeth, as it were, to *sleep* (Psalm 44:23), and not to mark what is done amiss. The Lord is patient, and would have none to perish, but would have all men to come to repentance. He was longer in destroying one city (*Jericho*, Joshua 6:4), than in building the whole world; slow to wrath, and ready to forgive, desiring not the death of a sinner, but rather he should amend. He doth not arise to particular punishments, much less to the general judgment, but after long suffering and great goodness. *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I,”* quoth our Lord, *“have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.”* Matt. 23:37.—*John Boys.*

2. God arising drives evil away: they are scatter / they flee / like smoke they are driven away / like wax they will melt / finally they perish!

II. Let us sing His songs –

³ But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. ⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him. Psalm 68:3-4 (NKJV)

1. *God's people are singing, rejoicing, praising!*
2. *God is riding on the clouds!*

Verse 3.—“*But let the righteous be glad.*” The wicked flee from the presence of God, since it inspires them with terror; the righteous on the other hand rejoice in it, because nothing delights them more than to think that God is near them.—*John Calvin.*

III. For God (our Father) is our defender, and poverty to wealth sender, but rebels will dwell in the dry land –

⁵ A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. ⁶ God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry *land*.

Psalm 68:5-6 (NKJV)

1. *This is my Father's world – well chosen song.*
2. *Defended of widows*
3. *Matchmaker for singles*
4. *Freer of slaves*

IV. Our History is no mystery, kings of armies flee, they flee –

⁷ O God, when You went out before Your people, When You marched through the wilderness, Selah ⁸ The earth shook; The heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God; Sinai itself *was moved* at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹ You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, *Hymn 130 Showers of Blessing*

Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary. ¹⁰ Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor. ¹¹ The Lord gave the word; Great *was the company of those who proclaimed it:*

12 “Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home divides the spoil. Psalm 68:7-12 (NKJV)

The wife did not go out to war, but her husband brings home the goods!

V. Our God will raise us high –

**13 Though you lie down among the sheepfolds,
“Though ye have lien among the pots,” *You will be like the wings of a dove covered with***

silver, And her feathers with yellow gold.”

**14 When the Almighty scattered kings in it,
It was *white* as snow in Zalmon. *Glisten as snow*—Hebrew (each man & woman) *is snowy***

**15 A mountain of God *is* the mountain of Bashan;
A mountain of *many peaks is* the mountain of Bashan. ¹⁶ Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of *many peaks*? *This is* the mountain *which* God desires to dwell in; Yes, the LORD will dwell *in it* forever. Psalm 68:13-16 (NKJV)**

Though you have been on the bottom in life, God will raise you to the top!

VI. Our God fights for us and wins –

**17 The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand,
Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them *as in* Sinai, in the Holy *Place*.**

18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, *Even from* the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell *there*. Psalm 68:17-18 (NKJV)

God has more than enough fire power to defeat all our enemies, even Satan – Ephesians 6:10-20

VII. God loads us with benefits, He is God of our salvation –

¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah ²⁰ Our God is the God of salvation; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death. Psalm 68:19-20 (NKJV)

1. *He blesses us beyond what we can carry!*
2. *He saves us!*
3. *He gives eternal life –*

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

VIII. He thoroughly defeats our enemies –

²¹ But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses. ²² The Lord said, “I will bring back from Bashan, I will bring *them* back from the depths of the sea, ²³ That your foot may crush *them* in blood, And the tongues of your dogs *may have* their portion from *your* enemies.” Psalm 68:21-23 (NKJV)

Enemies of God's people = dog food!

IX. God's people parade, probably a reference to taking the ark to Jerusalem –

²⁴ They have seen Your procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary. ²⁵ The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after; Among *them* were the maidens playing timbrels. ²⁶ Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel. ²⁷ There *is* little Benjamin, their leader, The princes of Judah *and* their company, The princes of Zebulun *and* the princes of Naphtali. Psalm 68:24-27 (NKJV)

X. David seems to be looking forward to the building of the Temple –

**²⁸ Your God has commanded your strength;
Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us.**

**²⁹ Because of Your temple at Jerusalem,
Kings will bring presents to You. ³⁰ Rebuke the
beasts of the reeds, The herd of bulls with the
calves of the peoples, *Till everyone* submits
himself with pieces of silver. Scatter the peoples
who delight in war. Psalm 68:28-30 (NKJV)**

*XI. Foreign nations also praise God, they recognize an
important occasion –*

**³¹ Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will
quickly stretch out her hands to God. ³² Sing to God,
you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the
Lord, Selah Psalm 68:31-32 (NKJV)**

XII. Yet, God is greater than His places –

**³³ To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens,
which were of old! Indeed, He sends out His voice, a
mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe strength to God; His
excellence *is* over Israel, And His strength *is* in the
clouds. ³⁵ O God, *You are* more awesome than Your
holy places. The God of Israel *is* He who gives
strength and power to *His* people. Blessed *be* God!
Psalm 68:33-35 (NKJV)**

Verse 33.—“And that a mighty voice;” or, a voice of strength; a strong and powerful voice, such as the gospel is, when accompanied with the power and Spirit of God. It is a soul-shaking and awakening voice; it is a heart-melting and a heart-breaking one; it is a quickening and an enlightening voice; it quickens dead sinners, gives life unto them, and the entrance of it gives light to dark minds: it is a soul-charming and alluring one; it draws to Christ, engages the affections to him, and fills with unspeakable delight and pleasure.—John Gill.