

## Psalm 66:1-20

### Introduction

Is your Christian life merely formal and mechanical? If so, what should you do? You should turn again to God, through His Word and by His Spirit and renew again that living communion with the Triune God.

One of the particular ways we can do that is through the book of Psalms, which “is given by God as a guide to the heart for life and worship.”

In **Psalm 65**, we saw David worshipping God for his bounteous kindness and goodness. In **Psalm 66**, we see that the heart that is filled with praise always desires company, which is why the psalmist summons us, "Come and see what God has done" (**Psalm 66:5**), and then calls to everyone, "Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard" (**Psalm 66:8**).

### Summary

**Psalm 66 dwells on the theme of witness, offering a song of worship that includes the believers' testimony about God to others.**

#### 1. Universal Summons vv. 1-4

Psalm 66 begins with a universal call to worship (**Ps. 66:1-2**). Since Israel's Lord is God over all the earth, it is fitting for everyone to worship the Lord.

**The opening section of Psalm 66 outlines some important priorities about the worship that all people should render to God.**

**First**, Worship should be prompted by God's terrifying power (**Psalm 66:3**).

**Secondly**, those who know God's mercy in salvation desire for him to be praised not only in fear but also in joy for the glory of his majesty (**Ps 66:2b**)

**Thirdly**, God's people are to sing the Lord's praises in Worship (**Psalm 66:2, 4**).

Just as the psalmist joyfully sang of all the earth worshipping, so also the success of the gospel and the glory of Christ's kingdom should be among the chief themes that thrill the hearts of Christians as they worship God.

#### 2. God's Mighty Works vv. 5-12

Having begun with his general call to worship, the psalmist invites others to join in the exalting of God's glory (**Psalm 66:5**).

**The psalmist points his hearers to the events of the Exodus**, the greatest redeeming act of God in the Old Testament (**Psalm 66:6-7**) referring to the crossing of the Red sea and Israel's subsequent passage across the River Jordan.

The psalmist's point is not that God did so great a redeeming work once, but that the Exodus is characteristic of God's saving work to save his people at all times.

By reflecting on this testimony, God's people should rejoice in their Savior and the nations should humble themselves before so mighty and vengeful a God.

Having first pointed to the Exodus as an example of God's redeeming power, the psalmist now points to God's preserving power (**Psalm 66:8-12**).

In telling what God has done for Israel, the psalmist's witness in **Psalm 66:5-12** joins God's power to redeem with God's care to guide his people into new life.

Like the psalmist, believers are to testify concerning what God has done to deliver us from bondage and guide us through deathly trials into everlasting life.

### **3. Personal Witness vv. 13-20**

In the final verses, the psalmist bears personal witness to God's grace (**Psalm 66:16**).

**He begins with a vow of sacrifice and worship (Ps. 66:13-15).**

Like the psalmist's worship, our worship should bear testimony to our need of Christ's mediation through the blood of his cross, by which we receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

**Through this worship, the psalmist bears testimony to the holiness, grace, and sovereign majesty of the God he worships.**

We should also realize that our manner of worship tells the world what we think about our God.

**In addition to the witness of his worship, the psalmist testifies to what God has done for him, especially in answering his prayers (Psalm 66:16-19).**

Giving his own testimony, the psalmist wants us to know how he learned to cry out to God. Do you doubt that God will hear your prayer?

The psalmist testified: "I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue" (**Psalm 66:17**).

Do you think that you can pray to God while seeking to continue in your paths of sin? The psalmist learned: "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (**Psalm 66:18**) but when he surrendered in faith and repentance and cried out for God's salvation, he was able to bear testimony that "truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer" (**Psalm 66:19**).

The psalmist's final words identify the lesson that every believer is called to learn and then share with others: "Blessed be God because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me" (**Psalm 66:20**).

**At the heart of Psalm 66 is the psalmist's plea, "Bless our God, O peoples let the sound of his praise be heard" (Psalm 66:8).**

Here we see the motive of all true evangelism: the passionate desire that God should be blessed and praised in the lives of people we know.

Psalm 66:1-20 Outline