

Psalm 65:1-13

Introduction

Why do Christians go to church?

“We should all gather in church to worship God for one reason above all others: because God is so worthy to be praised in the assembly of his people!”

Summary

Psalm 65 shows that God’s people always have reasons to praise the Lord in whatever circumstances they may find themselves.

1. Universal Grace vv. 1-4

David begins his praise by exalting God as the Savior who offers grace to all (65:2). The Bible's universal free offer of the Gospel invites everyone, of whatever tribe, tongue, or race to come to the true God in repentance and faith through the Savior He has provided: his Son, Jesus Christ.

David was speaking about the future, rejoicing that the time would come when "to you shall all flesh come" (Psalm 65:2 cf. Mic 4:1-2; Isa 2:2-3; John 4:23).

If we realize how the kingdom of God is advancing to the ends of the earth in our own times through the spread of the gospel, we will exult with David, “Praise is due to you, O God, ... and to you shall vows be performed” (Ps. 65:1).

It is marvelous that God offers grace to a human race that is universally condemned in sin. David is concerned over his own guilt as he thinks of approaching the holy God but rejoices in the atonement that God has provided: (Ps. 65:3).

At the heart of the gospel is the atonement that God, Himself, has made in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to remove the guilt of sin.

If you have turned to Christ in repentance and faith, God has made Jesus, the atonement to wash away your sin.

David points out that God also refreshes his people with the gift of himself (65:4).

You were made to know and be satisfied ultimately only in God, so the things of the world will never fulfill you. So, draw near to God through the blood of his Son and delight yourself in God and His gracious salvation.

2. Sovereign Might vv. 5-8

God is not only willing but He is also able to save His people (Psalm 65:5).

David reflects on the way in which God has delivered his people in times past with "awesome deeds," overthrowing their enemies and displaying his righteousness.

E.g. the Exodus and the conquest of Canaan under Joshua.

Such a God deserves to be trusted and praised by his people. Whether we are dwelling to the east or to the west to “the ends of the earth” or over “the farthest seas”(65:5)

Every Christian today who faces trouble and danger may look up to heaven and pray to the God who is able, as Paul tells us, "to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (**Eph. 3:20**).

David outlines three different displays of this divine might.

First, God showed his power in raising up the mountains (**Ps. 65:6**).

Secondly, God has power also to quell the raging sea (**Psalm 65:7**).

Thirdly, God, likewise, is able to subdue the nations (**Psalm 65:7**).

The news of God's mighty deeds inevitably spreads his fame far and wide (**65:8**).

3. Amazing Abundance vv. 9-13

The true and living God blesses with amazing bounty and is therefore worthy of our highest praise.

As he surveys creation, David marvels at the wonderful way in which God brings water to an otherwise dry and barren land, resulting in abundant life (**Psalm 65:9-10**). David sees abundant water streaming through the land, and he lifts his heart in praise to the God who provided it (**Psalm 65:11**).

He especially rejoices to see how God brings life to lands that man has not even cultivated, wilderness regions turn into verdant pastures (**Psalm 65:12-13**).

If this is nature's visible response to the blessing of God's rich bounty, how much more ought the hearts of his redeemed people to overflow with adoring gratitude for the plenty that God has granted so abundantly to us.

4. Spiritual Bounty

There is a spiritual analogy to the bounteous harvest that David describes in Ps 65.

The "river of God" (**Ps. 65:9**) especially represents the spiritual blessings which flow from work of the Holy Spirit (**Psalm 46:4; John 7:37-39**).

David's analogy teaches three lessons, prompting us to give praise to God.

First, nature does not function on its own to provide the harvest, but it is God himself who brings forth plenty from the earth.

Secondly, David acknowledged secondary causes, so that a natural process is involved in the coming of the harvest.

Thirdly, David extols how the coming of God's presence results in an abundant life.

5. Right Question

When we see how great and good is the God of our salvation, **the question is not** "Why should I come to church? or even Why should I come to church more than once a week?" **The question is:** "How can I more fully give myself to praise my Savior God? How can I know more of the blessing that comes from his presence?" The answer is: open your heart, give yourself to him, and the God of salvation will give to you a bounty of life.

Psalm 65:1-13 Outline