

Introduction

Read Psalm 66

A simple outline for this Psalm

- Shout Joyfully (1-4)
- Come and See (5-7)
- Bless Our God (8-15)
- Come and Hear (16-20)

Author: Unknown. It is simply entitled, "*For the choir director - A song - A Psalm*". It was meant to be used in worship of God - either at the Tabernacle or in the Temple.

The difference between a Song (שִׁיר / shir) and Psalm (מִזְמוֹר / mizmor). A song is sung. The term Psalm here refers to playing on musical instruments -

The Tone of Psalm: universal
Unknown specific situation
(David, Hezekiah???)

Exposition Notes

- 1 *Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;*
- 2 *Sing the glory of His name;
Make His praise glorious.*
- 3 *Say to God, "How awesome are Thy works!"
Because of the greatness of Thy power
Thine Enemies will give feigned obedience to Thee.*
- 4 *"All the earth will worship Thee,
And will sing praises to Thee;
They will sing praises to Thy name." [Selah.*

* Shout joyfully. Not random noise, but praise. Common command

throughout Psalms - shout / sing / proclaim to God with joy.

Whether you can carry a tune or not - proclaim God's glory, give Him praise

Praise - sincerely & deeply thankful in lauding a superior quality or great acts of the object being praised - here God

* Make praise glorious - weighty - honorable, impressive, grand, worthy of respect, Tame praise not sufficient - Do not hold back. Includes idea of pomp & ceremony of solemnity as well.

* All the earth - God deserves more than just what people can give. Creation already does this - Psalm 19. People should do this voluntarily - but one day all will bow and confess - Phil. 2:9-11.

Creation already does proclaim God's glory - Psalm 19

* Vs 1,2 - Example of such praise: Song of Moses in Exodus 15 (note vs 20,21); David in bringing ark to Jerusalem - 2 Samuel 6:12-14

* Instruction on praise: His Awesome works! - Awesome - "terrible" in KJV - referring here to the acts of God that would cause fear and / or reverence for Him. What works of God are awesome? - many, many. Anything in Creation. God's interventions recorded in the Bible - and those personally experienced. A few will be specifically mentioned in this Psalm

* Vs 3.. Feigned obedience - refers to rebellious who obey out of fear - but will rebel again if they can get away with it. Common response of man to earthly and supernatural powers. Enemies bend to God's power unwillingly - but they must bend (Phil 2:10 & Zech. 14:16f)

* All the earth will (future) worship Thee. (Zech 14:16f, etc). This will be the response during the Millennium - and eternity.

Selah - a pause for a musical interlude

5 *Come and see the works of God,
Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.*

6 *He turned the sea into dry land;
They passed through the river on foot;
There let us rejoice in Him!*

* Deeds mentioned: Crossing the Red Sea (Ex 12), Crossing the Jordan River (Joshua 3). They worshiped God - Exod. 15. Joshua 4 - the 12 memorial stones set up to prod remembrance & worship

7 *He rules by His might forever;
His eyes keep watch on the nations;
Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.*

[Selah.

* The hearts of the kings of the Amorities melted when they heard about the crossing of the Jordan on dry land - Joshua 5:1

* Rules by His might forever (Zech 14; Rev 19-21;

* Watches nations, humbles the rebellious: 2 Kings 18 & 19 (Sennacherib & Hezekiah). 1 Peter 5:5 - God is opposed to the proud.

* The plagues on Egypt destroying her power fits the description Selah - a musical pause / interlude to heighten the thought given

8 *Bless our God, O peoples,
And sound His praise abroad,*

9 *Who keeps us in life,
And does not allow our feet to slip.*

10 *For Thou hast tried us, O God;
Thou hast refined us as silver is refined.*

* All peoples called to praise God - and spread his praise everywhere. The Jewish nation was to be a nation of priests spreading the knowledge of God so that He would be praised - (Exodus 19:6). Their failure to do that is one of the reasons the church was formed - Romans 9 (grafted in) 1 Peter 2:9

* vs 9: a reason to sound God's praises - He both gives us life - and He keeps us stable. Paul pointed this out to the Athenians - Acts 17:28. Jesus is both our creator and sustainer - Col. 1:16-17.

* The Psalmists often expressed their trust in God to preserve & protect them - Psalm 37:23-24; 62:2; 94:18; 121:3 - "*He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber*"

* Trials come and test our faith - they refine us (James 1; Rom 5). Silver refined by heating it so that the impurities will rise - dross - to be skimmed off leaving behind the pure metal.

Examples of refining in verses 11-12

11 *Thou didst bring us into the net;
Thou didst lay an oppressive burden upon our loins.*

12 *Thou didst make men ride over our heads;
We went through fire and through water;
Yet Thou didst bring us out into a place of abundance.*

This could fit many situations Israel experienced

Net = encompassed by enemies. Slaves in Egypt. Judges recounts a cycle of oppression, repentance, deliverance. Foreign oppression rose when ungodly kings were on the throne in Judah / Israel. Would fit Hezekiah's situation with Assyria..

Heavy burden - They would pay tribute to the oppressing nations
Men "ride over their heads" - military defeat. * Men ride over heads.
Bondage, Oppression, Subjugation. Hebrew = to be superior to, to subdue to oneself and subject, and to sit upon and insult, just as the horseman rules with the rein, and spur, and whip.

Fire & water - both pitiless and encompassing - fire devours, water drowns. * Fire & Water. Water = Red Sea. Fire = Fiery serpents or fire on Korah (Num 16) (Fire & Water both needed for purification: Numbers 31:23)

Reference to Egyptian bondage? - for they were brought out of Egypt to the promised land - a land of abundance.

13 I shall come into Thy house with burnt offerings;

I shall pay Thee my vows,

14 Which my lips uttered

And my mouth spoke when I was in distress.

15 I shall offer to Thee burnt offerings of fat beasts,

With the smoke of rams;

I shall make an offering of bulls with male goats [Selah]

* Burnt Offering: Lev 1 - an offering of self-consecration. These are all acts of voluntary worship.

* Vs 13-15. I will pay the vows. *"All men have trouble, but they act not in the same manner while under it; the profane take to swearing and the godly to praying. Both bad and good have been known to resort to vowing, but the one is a liar unto God, and the other a conscientious respecter of his word"* - C.H. Spurgeon.

* Psalmist now become personal - Here is what God has done for me

16 Come and hear, all who ¹²⁰fear God,

And I will tell you what He has done for my soul.

17 I cried to Him with my mouth,

And He was extolled with my tongue.

* Cried = prayer. Extolled = praise

18 *If I ¹²¹ regard wickedness in my heart,
The Lord will not hear;*

* If I know about my sin and do nothing - God will not hear - i.e. He will not be paying attention to my half-hearted prayer.

God hates those who do iniquity - Psalm 5:5

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord - Prov.

15:8. The Lord is far from the wicked - Prov. 15:29. *He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an*

abomination - Prov. 28:9. Rebukes to Judah for this - Isaiah 1:15-17;

The man born blind understood - John 9:31

James 4:3 - a reason prayers go unanswered

An issue of the heart, not just outward actions - God searches the heart - Jeremiah 17:10

the solution - Isaiah 55:6-7 James 4:8-10

19 *But certainly God has heard;*

He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

20 *Blessed be God,*

Who has not turned away my prayer,

Nor His lovingkindness from me.

* God did hear - not a boast of self-righteousness. A shout of praise. God hears the prayer of the humble - Psalm 10:17

* God has not turned away my prayer or lovingkindness. (Cf Lam. 3:22,23)

- Luke 18:10f - the Pharisee & the Publican - an example of who God turns away from and who he listens to.

*Are you humble before God?

*Confess what you are aware of - conviction of conscience

*Search God's word to learn what you should confess - learning

God's commands, precept and will - training the conscience. Not a matter of how you feel - but what is right before God. The righteous seek the light - John 3:20-21

*Seek God to make you aware of hidden faults too - Psalm 139:23-24 - Psalm 26:2

*Do you bless God for what He has done!