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The Great Works of Our Great God; Psalm 65  
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Introduction – Psalm 64 ends by saying the righteous should rejoice in the Lord and the upright in heart should exult -overflow in joyful worship. That is precisely what Psalm 65 and 66 do – they rejoice and exult in the Lord.

Psalm 65 opens with the declaration that God is worthy of praise. He is praise-worthy. That vows will be performed, so in response to who God is and all He has done – people will respond with committing to Him, good works will flow from their lives, glad-hearted service and joyful surrender to His will shall happen.

God is due praise. That is, the right response to the existence of God and the attributes of God and the works of God is to laud Him with praise. To cheer Him, cherish Him, pour out thanksgiving to Him, shower Him with shouts of gladness. Praise is due to God. Here in Psalm 65 we are reminded of some of the great works of God, some of the reasons for which He is due our praise.

- I. The Great Work of Saving Grace (vv2-4)
  - a. V2 – Our God is the only god who hears prayer. That most cherished, most comforting reality cannot be spoken truthfully of any other god because no other god truthfully exists. The only God that exists is a God who hears prayer. That is, He is attentive to the cries and the petitions of His people.
    - i. All flesh will come to Him in one way or another – in judgment or in salvation – but we, who are His people, come to Him daily, come to Him often, come to Him already, frequently, in prayer. We approach the God of glory. We enter His presence. We come before His holy throne through the wonder and marvel of simply calling on His name.
    - ii. For that, He is to be praised!
  - b. V3 - He has made atonement for our transgressions, which were our own undoing, our own condemnation of ourselves. Our iniquities charge us with guilt before God. Our iniquities often defeat us. Our own inclination to self and pleasure and ego, trap us, enslave us, and prevail against us.

- i. But God has sent His Son to remove sin from our record. Our iniquities accuse us – Christ acquits us.
      - ii. Col 2:13-14 – And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.
      - iii. For that, He is to be praised.
    - c. V4 – God chooses you for glory and being brought to Him satisfies the deepest longing of your soul! Before you choose Him, He chooses you. Before you call to Him, He calls to you. Before you come to Him, He brings you near.
      - i. Salvation is provided by the Lord. Salvation is wrought by the Lord. Salvation is of the Lord!
      - ii. For that, He is to be praised.
- II. The Great Works of Creation and Providence (vv5-8)
- a. The marvel and wonder of God’s creation and His continued providence over His creation is a wonder that is observed by people all over the world.
  - b. The mighty mountains display the might of His creative work. The keeping and stilling of the waters display His providential work. The shout to people of every land that there is a God, a Creator God, a God who sustains and controls His creation. Creation reveals to every human on the planet that he/she is created too. The same might that raised the mountains and stills the seas, speaks peace and calm to my own heart.
  - c. The rhythm of creation declares that God above orders His own creation. Days have a rhythm, we call it night and day. Years have a rhythm, we call it seasons. Life has a rhythm, we call it aging. It’s all a wonder to behold. It keeps going. It never stops. Over and over again the sun rises and the sun sets. And God is to be praised.
  - d. III. Quote by G.K. Chesterton
  - e. For that, He is to be praised.
- III. The Great Work of Abundant Provision (vv9-13)

- a. Some commentators believe that David is praising God in these verses for an abundant harvest. The yield of grain has been beyond what was imagined. And God is to be praised when our crops yield and when our lives yield – each and every time we experience abundant blessing and provision, we are to praise God.
- b. For He is the One who brings about harvest in the field and harvest in the home and harvest in the heart. He has prepared it. He has watered it. He has fertilized it. He has given increase – time and time again.
- c. Land and regions often experience drought, but God never does. His storehouse is always full. His showers are always ready.
- d. The psalmist is saying – when you see the sunrise – praise God, He did that. When you see the flower bloom – praise God, He did that. When you see the rain fall – praise God, He did that. When the harvest is plenty – praise God, He did that.
- e. Spurgeon said of this passage – God’s visits leave a blessing behind.
- f. Psalm 145:16 – You open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- g. I want us to make an observation here. God’s saving grace in salvation takes up 3 verses in this psalm. God’s work of creation and providence and abundant blessing take up 9 verses in this psalm. Why is that? If we were writing this psalm, would we not reason that salvation is a greater blessing so it should receive greater attention. Not that these other works are not great in and of themselves, but salvation is forever. Talk about the others quickly and then take up most of the psalm rejoicing in salvation.
  - i. That’s certainly one way to look at it. But I believe what David is doing here is magnifying the grace of salvation not by amount of words but rather by illustration.
  - ii. Look at the last words of v8 and v13.
  - iii. David is expounding on creation and providence and abundant blessing because these are things we can see and touch and feel. And if we can grasp that all of the wonder of these works are brought about by our God – and if we can hear creation shout for joy to its Creator when the sun and moon appear, and the field rejoicing in the God of blessing when they burst with fruit...

- iv. David is saying – that’s the God who saved you. And if the sun and the moon and the grain are filled with joy because God created them, orders them, and blesses them, how much more so will be your joy to dwell in His house forever?

Conclusion – Praise is due to God. Yes, the sun praises Him. The moon praises Him. The grain praises Him. But His people – Oh His people, whom He has redeemed – oh how they shout and sing for joy!!

Psalm 107:2 – Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble.