

Psalm 65 — "Reasons To Praise God!"

Eternity will be too short fully to recount His praise. Let us not shorten our joy by neglecting to begin on earth. (William Law)

Introduction:

- **Jonathan Edwards:** the immense magnificence of the visible world, its inconceivable vastness, the incomprehensible height of the heavens, etc. is but a type of the infinite magnificence.
- **And:** The beauty of the world consists wholly of sweet mutual blessing, either within itself, or with the Supreme Being ... how this creation draws our heart as an inferior toward a superior cause, preserver, good giver, and a fountain of happiness.
- **Still more:** God is the foundation and fountain of all being and all beauty, from whom all is perfectly derived, and on whom all is most absolutely and perfectly dependent.

THESIS — Ps 65 gives 2 of the highest reasons to PRAISE GOD so that you will be drawn to corporate worship, humble awe, and God-entranced joy.

Praise Your God ...

[1] for his **PROPITIATION** vv1-4

[2] for his **POWER** vv5-13

PRAISE YOUR GOD...

I. FOR HIS PROPITIATION (1-4)

3 reminders concerning **propitiation** (from J.I. Packer):

1. **A Work of God.** — It is a work of GOD HIMSELF. — in paganism, man propitiates his god with some incense, offering, deed. but in Christianity, GOD propitiates HIS OWN wrath by his own action. HE set forth Christ (Rom 3.25)
2. **Thru Christ's Death.** — It was accomplished by the Death of Jesus Christ. BLOOD >> points to violent death inflicted in the animal sacrifices of OT (Lev 16-17). So the point of this death is REPRESENTATIVE SUBSTITUTION — the innocent takes the place of the guilty. He stands in the name of and for the sake of the guilty, and he stands under the violent axe of God's judicial retribution. (Galatians 3.13; and 2 COR 5.14, 18-21). Jesus is our representative standing FOR US; and our substitute b/c he was killed ON OUR BEHALF
3. **Displays God's Righteousness.** — It manifests God's righteousness. This truth of propitiation establishes and proclaims God's own very righteousness/justice (Rom 3.25-26)

God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied (Jonathan Edwards)

PRAISE YOUR GOD...

II. FOR HIS POWER (5- 13)

A. Praise God for his power *over CREATION* (v5-8)

B. Praise God for his power *in PROVISION* (v.9-13)

Some of the implications of this for us:

1. Let us **GATHER!** [come, assemble, sing!]
2. Let us **SILENCE!** [awe, silence before God!]
3. Let us **PRAISE!** [sing, rejoice, worship, reflect]
4. Let us **CALCULATE!** [look, marvel at his 'signs']
5. Let us **RELY!** [he provides!]

For nearly 3,000 years since the royal poet looked over the plains of Judea covered with the bounty of God, and broke forth into his magnificent hymn of praise, has the earth rolled on in her course, and the hand of God has blessed her, and all her children, with seed-time and harvest, with joy and abundance. The very steadfastness of the Almighty's liberality, flowing like a mighty ocean through the infinite vast of the universe, makes his creatures forget to wonder at its wonderfulness, to feel true thankfulness at its immeasurable goodness. Don't forget to marvel!

(William Howitt)

Additional application points to consider:

1. How does Christ, your propitiation, warm your heart & consume your mind each day? Does He? Why or why not? How can you remember & reflect on Him?
2. Since God supremely deserves our highest praise, what does your *preparation for worship* look like? How do you prepare? Where do you need to change? Repent? Confess? Leave earlier? Read the sermon text? Pray for the Spirit's empowering & unction? Sit silently in the pew before worship begins?
3. You become weak, tired, fatigued, and incompetent in your strength, in what areas of your life must you depend on God's power and strength?
4. What ways has God amply and ably provided for you that you have not thanked Him yet today? Christ's propitiation? God's drawing you to Himself? God's adopting you? The character of God? The food you've eaten? The family? Shelter and warmth?
5. What in your life clouds your worship of God? What distracts you? Is there anything that hinders you from praising God? What throws water on the fire of your praise? What quenches it? Sin? Distractions?

Let's learn from the creation & praise loudly!

*Psalm 65 — "Reasons To Praise God!"***BEHOLD OUR GOD**

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
 Who has numbered every grain of sand?
 Kings and nations tremble at His voice
 All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God seated on His throne
 Come, let us adore Him
 Behold our King—nothing can compare
 Come, let us adore Him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
 Who can question any of His words?
 Who can teach the One who knows all things?
 Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
 Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
 God eternal, humbled to the grave
 Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

PSALM 65: Psalter

Tune: "Stand up, stand up for Jesus"

Praise waits for you in Zion;
 to you our vows we pay.
 All flesh will come before you,
 O God who hears us pray.
 When sins rise up against us,
 accusing ev'ry day,
 you pardon our transgressions
 and wash our sins away.

How blest the man you've chosen
 to bring within your courts.
 We're filled with all the goodness
 of your most holy house.
 By awesome deeds you answer
 with righteousness, O God
 our Savior, hope of nations
 and farthest seas abroad.

By strength you formed the mountains.
 You hushed the sea's loud voice;
 you calmed the waves' great roaring
 and stilled the people's noise.
 Those living in remote lands
 will fear your wondrous ways;
 you make the morn and evening
 shout forth with songs of praise.

You visit earth and greatly
 enrich the land with rain.
 God's stream is full of water,
 and you provide their grain.
 You water all its furrows,
 you settle all the ground;
 you soften it with showers
 and make its growth abound.

You crown the year with bounty;
 your harvests overflow.
 The wilderness is fruitful;
 the hills with joy are clothed.
 With grain the vales are covered;
 the flocks in pasture graze.
 All nature joins in singing
 a joyful song of praise.