

“SHOUT JOYFULLY TO GOD, ALL THE EARTH”

PSALM 66

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INTRODUCTION

This psalm begins with the “*corporate worship*” of Israel that rejoices in its redemption—to which all the nations of the earth are invited; note the “**Come and see**” in v. 5, preceded by the “shout joyfully,” “sing”, and “say to God” in vv. 1-3, and followed by v. 8 where the peoples are exhorted to “bless” God and sound abroad His praise). Then, the psalm passes over into an *individual’s worship* who brings his offerings and summons the faithful to listen to his story which is a sample of that of the rest of the nation (note the “**Come and hear**” in v. 16).

We have no way of knowing the specific occasion upon which this psalm was sung or who the author of the psalm is. Nor is there mention of a specific recent battle or victory—only allusion to trials and oppression and having been lifted out from such (vv. 8-12). However, the deliverance experienced by Israel must have been significant enough that Israel felt the necessity to invite others to share in the giving of praise to their God. Evidently Israel believed that the magnitude of what had happened to them would help the surrounding neighbors not to balk at the suggestion that they participate in such praise with Israel.

I. EXHORTATION TO THE WORLD TO GLORIFY GOD (1-4)

In v. 1, the verb may be used for any kind of loud shout with the voice, such as made in triumph over enemies (e.g. Ps. 41:11); here as in 47:1; 81:1; 95:1, 2; 98:4; and 100:1 it is used for loud praise in public worship.

A. Sing to God’s Glory (2)

1. The “glory of His name”
2. Glory as His praise.

B. Speak to God: (3-4)

1. “How awesome are your works.”
2. “Your enemies will “deceive” you—“come cringing to you.”
3. “All the earth will worship You” (4)
 - Sing praises to you
 - Sing praises to Your name

II. RECOUNTING TO THE WORLD GOD’S PAST/PRESENT ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE (5-7)—**Come and See his works. God is awesome in His works.**

A. God turned the Red Sea into dry land. (6)

B. Israel passed through the Jordan on foot.

C. There, in all such miraculous actions of God past and present, let us rejoice in Him.

D. He providentially rules by His might, forever (7)

1. His eyes keep watch—the nations had better get with His program and bless His people.
Any attempt on Israel is an affront on God Himself.
2. The rebellious had better not exalt themselves (7b)

III. PRAISE BY THE WORLD DUE TO RECENT DELIVERANCE BY GOD OF HIS PEOPLE (8-12)

A. Israel is “kept in life” and its ‘foot’ not allowed to slip—be shaken.” (9)

B. Israel has been severely “tested” by God (10-12)

1. Refined as is silver (10)
2. Captured in the net (11)
3. Pressure/affliction upon their loins (11b)—cf. 69:23, loins shaking continually
4. “Men” have ridden over their heads (12a)

5. Have gone through “fire” and “water.” (12b)
- C. God has brought them out to a place of abundance/saturation (12c)

IV. PROMISE OF GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WORSHIP BY THE PSALMIST (13-15)

The lavish gifts brought by the psalmist seems to say that “the whole gamut of sacrificial beasts would scarcely do the occasion justice” (K. 235). Each one was costly, and the total was very expensive—but not too much for the grateful heart of the person who owes his very life to the Lord. Here we see the expression of zeal and devotion inspired by gratitude that does not consider any cost to be too great.

- A. Burnt Offerings brought (13)
 1. To God’s house
 2. Payment of vows uttered by lips and mouth when in distress (14)
- B. Lavish and Multi-faceted gifts (15)
 1. Fatlings—likely sheep
 2. Smoke of Rams
 3. Bulls with male goats

V. EXHORTATION TO GOD-FEARERS TO HEAR AND REJOICE IN GOD’S MERCY TO THE PSALMIST (16-20)

- **Compare “come and see” in v. 5.**
- Let me tell you what He has done for my soul—for me; “Stop, and let me tell you....”

- A. I cried out to Him (17)
- B. At the same time, exaltation was “under my tongue”—ready to gush forth (17b)
- C. He refuses to hear the prayers of those who “regard iniquity in their hearts (18)
- D. But, truly, God has heard; he has inclined His ears—given heed to the voice/sound of my prayer (19).
- E. Blessed be God who:
 1. Has not turned away my prayer (20)
 2. Has not turned away His loyal-love from me (20b)

CONCLUSION

God won’t hear/acknowledge your prayers if you regard iniquity in your heart.

But, God does hear the God-fearers.

God brings His people through many testings—but brings them out to a place of abundance/saturation! (12)

He has not turned away our prayer/His loyal love from us (20).

THEREFORE, BRING HIM LAVISH OFFERINGS OF ALL THE BEST YOU HAVE—COMPLETE AND TOTAL SELF SACRIFICE.

Call the world to acknowledge all that God has done for you—for your soul.

God’s work is awesome, and God is awesome in His work (vv. 3, 5).

He has worked amazing acts of salvation for His people (5-7). He has kept her in life; kept her foot from slipping (9).

Eventually all the earth will sing of His glory, and even his enemies will come cringing—feign obedience (3)