

“THE GOD WHO GOES BEFORE HIS PEOPLE”

PSALM 68:7-10

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INTRODUCTION

In the first verses of this psalm, David has called upon God to “arise” on behalf of His people—just as ancient Israel used to do when in the wilderness the ark would proceed in front of them. As the result, God’s enemies would be scattered and flee away as smoke and as melting wax (1-2). The godly will be glad and rejoice profoundly (3), even singing with music while preparing God’s way before Him with their rejoicing—before the God who “rides through the deserts, whose name in Yah” (4). Their rejoicing also includes the reality that their God fathers the fatherless, justly judges on behalf of the widows, makes a home for the homeless, and leads out prisoners from captivity into prosperity. By contrast, only those who are *rebellious* dwell in a parched land—as do those even now who died in the wilderness due to their rebellion against God (6).

Now, with all this in mind, David goes back to review the past deliverances of His people, Israel—especially in the Exodus, the covenant at Sinai, and the settlement in the promised land (7-10). For the child of God, a review of past blessings in the faithfulness of God is a great encouragement for the present continuation of trust in Him.

THE FAITHFUL GOD OF ISRAEL STILL GOES BEFORE HIS PEOPLE.

- I. GOD BEFORE HIS PEOPLE (7)
[Read the Song of Deborah in Jud. 5:4-5]
 - A. He went forth from His Sanctuary.
 - B. He marched through the wilderness.

- II. THE MAJESTY OF GOD WHEN HE MADE HIS COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE (8)
 - A. The quaking of the Earth
 - B. The dropping of the heavens and of rain—due to God’s presence
 - C. Sinai especially is the scene of majestic divine power
 1. God’s presence
 2. The God of Israel—who entered into a relationship with them

- III. LAVISH BLESSINGS UPON GOD’S HERITAGE (9)
 - A. Rain—and all blessings “rained” upon the land.
 - B. Willingly and lavishly given
 - C. Waving them to and fro—shedding them abroad
 - D. Upon His inheritance given to His people
 - E. God confirmed/established His wearied inheritance.

- IV. THE SETTLEMENT IN THE LAND (10)
 - A. “Your living creature, flock,” settled in it.
 - B. God establishes/provides
 1. In His goodness

2. For the needy and humble ones of His people.

CONCLUSION

The act of redemption for Israel was indeed mighty and awesome, and its effects were spectacular.

But our redemption is even more so!

The act of Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and session.

His giving of the Holy Spirit and dwelling in our hearts.

His guiding us step by step and providing for our needs.

His provision for us of a heavenly inheritance with all we could ever want or need.

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