

“OUR DAILY BURDEN BEARER”

PSALM 68:19-27

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord has entered his Holy habitation and sits enthroned, having conquered all His enemies. Multitudes of heavenly hosts escort Him. All power and authority are at His disposal. So, in ancient Israel their God sat enthroned above the cherubim over the Ark of the Covenant. With such a powerful God ruling over the world, how can the individual believer expect any relief or individual attention?

But, he can. For the same ascended Christ has spoken to His followers saying, “Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light” (Mt. 11:28-30).

Likewise here in this psalm we may be surprised to find such a mention of God as the burden bearer of His people (v. 19). Such a lovely picture may seem disjointed to us when put side by side with a reference to the bloody defeat and destruction of Israel’s enemies. But we must remember God’s justice and holiness. Sin is ugly; its leaders of wicked and perverted; its results are disastrous to all involved. God will punish sin, and sinners will pay the price. His people will rejoice and celebrate such a mighty God in His triumphs.

HIS YOKE IS EASY, HIS JUSTICE IS HEAVY—HIS CELEBRATION IS MAJESTIC.

- I. THE GOD OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE (vv. 19-23)
 - A. God of Deliverance (19-20)
 1. God daily bears the burdens of His people—or **bears His people**.
 2. God is our salvation—“To us”.
 3. God is a God of deliverances. (20)
 - Multiple in number
 - Many faceted in display-- **richness** and **range**.
 - Multiple names—“God the God—*El*; *Yahweh* the *Adonai*.”
 4. To God belongs escapes from death.
 - While death is apparently a domain with many entrances and no exit, **God has made it one from which ‘he brought me forth into a broad place.’**
 - With God are wonderful and various and secret methods, whereby He raises His children from death to life.” And such is true even when death has practically swallowed up His people; He still provide means of escape.
 - Christ has the “keys of death and of hell” (Rev. 1:18).
 - B. God of Destruction (21-23)
 1. His enemies will be shattered—cf. Jael with the tent peg in Jud. 5:26
 - a. Their **head**.
 - b. Their “hairy crown”—indication of un-humbled pride and strength.
 - c. Such persons “go on in their ‘guilty deeds.’”
 2. They have no place to hide (see Amos 9:2-3).
 - Not a verse of intended comfort for believers.
 - **Illus.**—ship with captives from Jerusalem who jumped into the sea due to this verse!
 - Highest mountain; deepest ocean. Far to the east; far to the west.
 3. Judgment is sure, but gruesome—not intended to be pretty!
 - a. The foot of the righteous will shatter them in blood (some say “washed in blood”).

- b. Tongue of the dogs have as their “portion” from such enemies.
 - Dogs not seen as pets.
 - Compare the dogs who licked up Jezebels blood and eat her body (II K. 9:30-37).

II. THE GOD WHO MARCHES IN MIGHTY PROCESSION (24-27).

A. God’s Procession in Holiness into the Sanctuary (24)

1. My God
2. My King
3. Celebratory procession—word used twice in the verse.

B. Human participants in celebration and worship (25-27)

1. Singers before (25)
2. Players of stringed instruments after
3. Maidens with tambourines all about—cf. Miriam; cf. Jephthah’s daughter; cf. women celebrating Saul’s and David’s victory over Goliath and Philistines.
4. Blessing/praising God, even Yahweh in the full congregation (26)
 - “Congregation” is plural. Includes all of every rank and station.
 - Those who are descended from Israel—Jacob.
 - He is called the fountain/source of the people.
5. All the tribes of Israel are represented. (27)
 1. Benjamin
 - a. The “youngest,” “smallest”, least significant
 - Cf. Mic. 5:2.
 - Youngest son.
 - Had become smallest tribe.
 - b. The “ruler”
 - Given leadership in this procession and in other affairs—wisdom of David in such.
 - Saul had been the first king & followed by his son for a short time.
 - The last shall be first.
 2. Judah in their “throng”—pile of stones
 - The kingly tribe
 - The most numerous
 - Two tribes to the south
 3. Zebulun and Naphtali
 - Two tribes to the north.
 - Involved prominently in battle of Deborah and Barak—Jud. 5:18

CONCLUSION

One day “the saints will go marching in, and the hordes of sinners on earth will be silenced and defeated. As seen in Isaiah 63, the Lord’s robes will be dipped in the blood of His enemies—see Revelation 19:13-21. Note that the saints are with Him when He comes to judge. After this He rules on the earth—Rev. 20:1-4. He will enter into His sanctuary.

We saints will worship and serve Him in glory! Psalm 68 gives us a foretaste under picture of ancient Israel.

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