

“BE STRONG IN THE LORD”

PSALM 68:28-35

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INTRODUCTION

We have just seen the glorious procession of God with all His worshippers into His sanctuary. His enemies have been defeated; He and His people have triumphed. But, His people still live in the world and the arch enemy and his followers never give up in their attempt to thwart the divine plan and program. God’s people still must stand strong and win the victory—there will be many more battles to fight!

The emphasis in this section is on **divine strength**—God has plenty of it. He rules over and rides victoriously in the heavens and condescends to manifest His strength on behalf of His people.

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD; BE STRONG IN THE LORD.

- I. GOD HAS COMMANDED OUR STRENGTH (28-31).
 - A. God will manifest His strength—He has already acted for our benefit. (28)
 - B. Men will ascribe strength to Him (34)
 1. His strength is “in the skies”—higher than the heavens.
 2. His majesty is over His people (Israel).
 - C. God is **awesome** from His holy place (35).
 1. He is the God of His people—Israel.
 2. He gives His “strength” to us.
 3. He gives His “abundant might” to us—the word is *plural intensive*.

- II. THE ENEMIES OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE WILL BE DEFEATED.
 - A. They submit to God and bring Him tribute (29-31).
 1. Because /from His temple at Jerusalem—he dwells with His people (29).
 2. Even powerful kings bring Him gifts (29).
 3. Envoys/ambassadors come to Him from far-away places (31).
 - Egypt
 - Sudan (Cush, Ethiopia)
 - B. God Defeats those who resist (30).
 1. He “rebukes” the “beast in the reeds”.
 - Crocodile or hippopotamus
 - Symbol of Egypt
 2. “The herd of bulls with the calves”
 - Of the peoples
 - Leaders and followers
 - “Trampling underfoot pieces of silver”—refusing submission and tribute
 3. Scattering those who “delight in war.”

- III. ALL THE WORLD WILL SING GOD’S PRAISES (32-33)
 - A. The kingdoms of the Earth (32)

1. Sing to God—Elohim.
 2. Sing praises—with musical instruments—to the Lord (Adonai)
- B. The King Over the Earth (33)
1. God “rides upon” the heavens of the heavens
 - “The highest heaven.”
 - “From of old”—ancient times, since Creation
 2. God “gives/speaks forth/sends out His voice”
 - “A mighty voice”—literally **of strength**.
 - Pictures a lightning and thunder storm controlled by God
- “**Blessed/praised be God!**” (35).

CONCLUSION

Let us summarize the portrait of God’s strength here in Psalm 68:28-35:

- God has a voice of strength (v. 33).
- His strength is “in the skies” (34).
- His “majesty” [different word] is “over Israel.”
- He is **awesome** [different word] from His sanctuary (35).
- The world must “ascribe strength to God” (34).
- God “shows Himself strong on behalf of His people (28).
- He has commanded the strength of His people (28).
- The God of Israel/His people **HIMSELF** gives strength.
- God gives “abundant might [different word] to His people.

Compare Paul: “He can do **exceedingly abundantly above ALL** that we can ask or even think according to the power that works within us (Eph. 3:20).

All His enemies are doomed to defeat.

One day all peoples will be submitted to Him and will worship Him.

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