

Psalm 66

V: 1-2 Exhortation: Praise the Lord! “Make a joyful noise” - This phrase is used 7 times in the Bible, all of them in the Psalms.

Psalm 95:1 “O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”

- A joyful noise doesn't necessarily require skill, just a loving heart towards God.
- ²The command, the imperative: Sing forth! Make his praise glorious!
- I don't think that mumbling or whispering praise fits the bill here. We should sing enthusiastically, audibly - not overly so, but certainly joining in the joyful chorus of the saints.
- The world, all the nations are being encouraged to make a joyful noise, to worship the God of Israel. Why? Because all the nations of the world would be blessed through Israel, and the God of Israel!

Genesis 12:3 “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

V: 3-4 “*Say unto God...*” this gives us a clue as to who our joyful noise and praise is to be directed to - it's to God Himself, not men, not us - it's to Him!

- The idea here is that of singing and reciting God's works and accomplishments back to Him, I believe that He enjoys us singing His Word back to Him as well.
- All his enemies will be subdued beneath Him, all the earth will eventually worship Him, they shall sing His name.

Philippians 2:10-11 “¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- We see so many that live their lives in rebellion to God; some are indifferent, some rebel and blaspheme but they are only able to do so because God allows them to.

1. God is patient He's willing to wait, not to judge too quickly.

2. When Belteshazzar took over the kingdom of Babylon at the death of his father, he ordered a great feast for all the lords and princes even though the city was under siege by the Medo-Persians at the time.
3. They all thought they were secure in their mighty fortress city of Babylon. Belteshazzar orders that the gold and silver vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem be brought in so they could drink their wine from these sacred vessels.
4. As they were in the midst of their revelry and debauchery suddenly a hand appeared before them, writing something on the wall that they couldn't understand.
5. It struck fear into the heart of Belteshazzar and his court, "his loins were loosed."
6. Eventually they brought the prophet Daniel in to interpret the writing on the wall. Before he interpreted it he preached a short sermon to them, actually he scolded them, reminded them of their own history.
7. He reminded Belteshazzar of his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar, how he'd built a great kingdom, which he had inherited and how that his grandfather had rebelled against God, and God allowed him to go crazy, how he'd wandered in the wilderness for 7 years, eating and living like an animal - all that he might know God. At the end of it Nebuchadnezzar came to know the true and living God.
8. Belteshazzar had not honored God, in fact here he was in open defiance of God, blaspheming God, drinking from the Holy vessels and praising the gods of gold and silver.

Daniel 5:23 "... the God in whose hand your very breath is you have not glorified."

- God allowed it, but not forever. God allows is still, but again, not forever. There will come a day when the enemies of God will submit to Him.

V: 5-6 Now he's pointing back to the history of the nation of Israel. In the Jewish mind, the birth of the nation of Israel began as they were birthed out of Egypt, when He turned the sea into dry ground, when He parted the Red Sea and provided a way for the nation, and at the same time closed it upon the Egyptians who were destroyed at the same place.

- Pointing out how they went through the flood, crossing the Jordan river on dry ground, entering into the promised land, rejoicing to have received the land which would become their own.

- The writer is inviting all the world to behold what God did in birthing the nation of Israel, the great and terrible miracles that produced the nation.
- The death and resurrection is the Christian equivalent of the crossing of the Red Sea:

Ephesians 1:18-20 “¹⁸The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, ²⁰which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,”

- They pointed to the Red Sea, we point to our risen Lord!

V: 7 God rules! His eyelids behold, He judges the nations. The rebellious will not be allowed to exalt themselves.

- Egyptians, Philistines, Assyrians - be warned.

V: 8-9 Bless God, praise His name, understanding they He holds our lives in His hand just as He did Belteshazzar. We owe our existence to God

- We have voluntary and involuntary muscles. The voluntary muscles attached to our skeleton, we can control. Arms and legs and so on. But the involuntary muscles aren't the same, our heart, lungs, and so on, these vital muscles and organs are controlled by God. God maintains control over the critical systems, because we're not capable of controlling that stuff by ourselves and we'd soon be dead, He keeps us!

V: 10 God would prove us, test us; not so that He could see what we're made of, but that we could see what we're made of. And in so doing come to a greater appreciation for the working of God in our lives. We realize we can't do it, but that God would do it for us.

Deuteronomy 4:20 “But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.”

- Refiners fire: (explain)

Psalms 17:15 “As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”

- He shall be satisfied, he's looking forward to awakening in His likeness!

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

V: 11-12 David is saying that you Lord have drawn us into your net, we've been afflicted, trials have come our way.

- You caused men to ride over our heads, we were overwhelmed, we were tried and tested - but in the end you brought us to a wealthy or prosperous place, we benefitted from it.

James 1:2-4 ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations / trials; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

- David didn't say "you sent us" he said "you brought us" meaning He was there with us.

Isaiah 43:2 "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

V: 13-15 Now the pro-nouns change from "us" and "we" to "I" and "you."

- David responds to what God has done through the trial, once again He's shown Himself strong on David's behalf and his response to that is to worship God all the more.
- David wants to make good on his vows, he wants to keep his word to God - as we all should.
- Hannah made a vow unto God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to God. God gave her a son and she did in fact give Him back to God - and Samuel is one of the greatest prophets in the Bible, his was a life that was totally dedicated to serving God.
- He mentions burnt offerings which were different that sin offerings, or peace offerings. The burnt offering was an offering of consecration or dedication.
- My life is consecrated / dedicated to God, I am set aside for His purposes, I am committed to Him.
- In those days they brought rams, lambs, and bulls. Today we present ourselves:

Romans 12:1-2 “¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

V: 16-17 David declares that he will testify of God’s goodness and the great things He has done.

- When God is working and moving in our lives, we can’t help but overflow with the testimony and excitement!

V: 18 “If I cherish iniquity, abide in, or live with iniquity in my heart. If we regard, or cherish, if we’re unwilling to confess or to forsake that iniquity - then God won’t hear us.

Romans 8:8 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- God won’t allow His children to be two faced, to put on outward pretenses.

Psalms 51:6 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts;...”

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

- There are those times when it seems that our prayers are falling flat, or perhaps we sense some distance in our relationship with God. Sometimes the issue is un-confessed sin.
- We can pray and ask God to reveal the problem, if we don’t already know it.

Psalms 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

- None of us that love the Lord want anything to stand in the way of our prayers.

1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

V: 19-20 But, on the contrary - God has heard me, He hasn't turned my prayer aside or rejected it, nor has He withheld His mercy from me.

- The Psalmist is acknowledging that God has heard his prayer, not because of his spirituality, or purity, or merit in some way, but that God has heard his prayer because God is merciful, God has not withheld His mercy from him.

Psalm 67

V: 1 Be merciful, bless us, smile upon us, give us your favor.

Very similar to:

Numbers 6:25 "The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."

- We too desire His mercy, His blessing, and His favor in our lives.

V: 2-3 That the world around us may know God's ways through God's people.

Isaiah 42:6-7 "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles: ⁷to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

- That all people would praise God and they come to know God, through His people.

That's the spirit behind:

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

V: 4 The nations will be glad and sing for joy - when God judges the people and governs the nations upon the earth - this is speaking of the kingdom age, the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth.

The Bible declares that there is a time coming:

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

V: 5 During the glorious kingdom age, the Millennium, when Jesus is reigning upon the earth, and as the faithful, the saints reign with Him it is going to be a time to give glory and praise to God.

- There will be enforced righteousness, there will be no wars, no crime, no famine, no sickness, no rebellion.
- Everyone will praise the Lord because of his glorious righteous reign.

V: 6 The earth will yield her increase, abundantly because there will be no more deserts, no droughts, no famine. The deserts and barren areas will blossom.

Isaiah 35:6-7 “⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.”

- The glorious blessing of God upon the earth during the reign of Christ.

V: 7 The glory of that coming day! “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven!” Come quickly Lord Jesus!

[Prayer of Jabez:](#)

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 “⁹And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, because I bore him with sorrow. ¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”