

## Psalm 68

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- Psalm 68 is a doxology, and utterance of praise and worship directed at God.

V: 1 *“Let Elohim arise...”* The God of all creation and power.

- We see on a daily basis the long suffering of God, the incredible patience of God as He allows evil to continue all around us - He doesn't necessarily judge immediately.
- We look around at a world dominated by sin and at times the cry of our heart is the same as these words of David.
- *“Oh God, arise, let your enemies be scattered, let those that hate you flee away!”*
- This is exactly what Moses said as the children of Israel set out for the promised land:

**Numbers 10:35** *“And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, “rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.”*

- There are those times when we pray *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven”* when there is a real sense of urgency to that prayer as we see the condition of the world around us.
- We don't have to fight all the battles, all we need to do is let God arise, and His enemies will scatter and flee.
- He arises when we worship Him, He arises when we sing His praises and glorify Him. He arises in prayer as we exalt Him!
- David now waxes poetical as he describes what that victory would look like.

V: 2 We see the wickedness of the world that is so entrenched, so highly organized, and powerful; but before God they are nothing, they are like smoke that is driven away, or as wax that melts in the heat of a fire - God will deal with them in an effortless manner.

V: 3-4 The righteous do rejoice in the Lord, they are glad that He is and will be victorious!

- He rides upon or over heaven, it's under His feet - by His name, Jah. (Yah)

- “Jah” (Yah) is a contraction for “Yahweh” - to the Jews, the unspeakable name of God, meaning “The Becoming One.”
- Often times used as either a pre-fix or a suffix.
- “Je-shua” - God is salvation, or “Hallelujah” - praise the Lord.

V: 5 Ours is the God of the “underdog” - orphans, widows, the down and out.

**Deuteronomy 10:18** “He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.”

**James 1:27** “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

- Is God in His holy habitation? Is God still on His throne? If that’s the case then He is in charge.

V: 6 He takes those that are alone and He puts them into families - I’ve experienced this, I have a church family that is closer to me than my blood relations.

- He gives us freedom, He loosens our bonds!

**John 8:36** “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- Rain is a blessing from God, when He withholds the rain, it’s a dry land, that is the lot of the rebellious.

**Hebrews 6:7** “For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God.”

- Now David gets into God’s deliverance of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt:

V: 7 God went before the nation and went with them through the wilderness.

**Exodus 13:21** “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.”

V: 8 The images of Mt. Sinai / Jabel El Lawz: scorched, burned, charred - by the descending glory of God.

**Exodus 19:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. <sup>18</sup>And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”



- It's always encouraging to remember how God has worked mightily in the past, it give us strength for the present, and hope for the future.

V: 9 God would eventually send the children of Israel into the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey, speaking of God's bountiful provision - which depended greatly on the rain - which God did send.

**Deuteronomy 11:11** “But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven.”

Rain is a blessing from God:

**Deuteronomy 28:12** “The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand:...”

- There are those times when God just rains down His blessings upon us, those times of refreshing and encouragement where God just blesses us. Especially those times we're getting frustrated by something or when we forget to pray, maybe we didn't make time for our devotions - and God “confirms your inheritance” - affirming His love, affirming His grace - raining down His blessings upon us.

V: 10-11 Thy congregation, His congregation has dwelt in that blessing, in the goodness that He prepared for them.

- The Lord gave them His Word there on Mt. Sinai, His Word spread among His people, it was prized, and revered, as was His name.

**Psalm 19:7-11** “<sup>7</sup>The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

V: 12 God gave the armies of Israel victory; they brought home the spoils which the women divided.

V: 13-14 laying in pots? Transformed into the wings of the dove, silver & yellow gold?

*“Though you lie down among the sheepfolds, You will be like the wings of a dove covered with silver, And her feathers with yellow gold.”* NKJV

*“When you lie down among the sheepfolds, You are like the wings of a dove covered with silver, And its pinions with glistening gold.”* NASB

- Like David who started out humbly, watching over his father’s sheep - laying in the sheep folds, to being elevated by God, soaring above, like a dove covered in silver and gold.
- <sup>14</sup>Salmon is a mountain near Shechem: Mt. Hermon is known for its snow capped peak, where Israelis go skiing. Mt. Salmon gets snow but it usually melts off quickly as it is much lower.
- In a similar way, the Almighty scattered the kings, the enemies of Israel, like as the snow melts off and away from Salmon.

V: 15-16 The hill of God, Mt. Zion is the highest place because that is where God ordained that His house would be, where He would reside.

- The hills of Bashan are the higher mountains in the area of Naphtali that bordered Lebanon.
- They are higher and more lofty than Mt. Zion, which is more like a hill as opposed to a great mountain.
- <sup>16</sup>There is then that kind of rhetorical question, “why leap ye, ye high hills?” Vying for God’s attention and favor - but He’s already picked Zion, that is where He wants to dwell, where He will dwell forever.
- What is true of Mt. Zion is also true of His people:

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8** <sup>6</sup>For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: <sup>8</sup>But because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

V: 17 The Hebrew here is literally “thousand (s)” or “myriads,” or “innumerable” numbers of chariots / engines of war, and angels, or angelic warriors.

- At Mt. Sinai, that holy place, the Lord descended like fire upon the mountain, covered it and as we saw, left His mark.

V: 18 David now moves into a prophetic word, describing Messiah, Jesus.

Paul later quotes this referring to Jesus:

**Ephesians 4:8** “Wherefore he saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

- The Holy Spirit then through Paul adds a little clarification / commentary:

**Ephesians 4:9** “Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth.”

In Isaiah the prophecy regarding Jesus declares:

**Isaiah 61:1** “The spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

- When Jesus began His public ministry he came into the synagogue in Nazareth, and they handed Him the scroll of Isaiah and He read the scheduled reading for that week which “just happened to be” **Isaiah 61:1**.
- Jesus read the scripture and handed the scroll back, then sat down and said:

**Luke 4:21** “... this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

- What was He to do? He was to preach the good tidings to the meek, to bind up the broken hearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captive.
- He was to fulfill Psalm 68 verse 18.
- Before the death of Jesus it was impossible for the OT saints to enter into that perfected state, impossible for them to enter into heaven because it was impossible for the blood of goats to put away their sins.
- The sacrifices of goats and bulls were all anticipatory, and temporary, looking forward to the sacrifice that God Himself would provide in and through Jesus which would be permanent. Those sacrifices served to cover (kopher) our sins, but they could not put away our sins.

**Hebrews 10:4** “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”

**1 Peter 1:18** “<sup>18</sup>Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

- The captives being described in this verse are those believing saints who were waiting in that compartment of hell known as Abraham’s bosom - whom Jesus set free when He first descended into the lowest part of the earth, hell, to escort to Heaven.
- At this point their sins, our sins, had been paid for - He is the propitiation for our sin, the permanent atonement, not just the temporary covering.
- All of that and more is what is being described in this verse: “*leading captivity captive, giving gifts to men...*”

V: 19 God blesses us every single day! Some recognize it, appreciate it, some don’t.

- Our God is a blessing God!

V: 20 “*the..*” God of salvation.

**Isaiah 43:11** “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no savior.”

- He is also the One to whom are the issues of death.

**Deuteronomy 32:39** “See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand.”

V: 21 God shall wound the head of His enemies:

Speaking to Satan about the Messiah: (1<sup>st</sup> Messianic prophecy)

**Genesis 3:15** “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; *it* (her seed / Messiah) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heal.”

“... *and the hairy scalp of such an one...*” possibly speaking of Absalom who rebelled against his father’s reign, who went on as one who “... *goeth on still in his trespasses.*” And as a result ended up with his hairy scalp hanging in a tree.

V: 22-23 Recalling the nations early victory over Og, the king of Bashan - the Lord gave them the victory then, as He will in the future battles they will fight.

- This might have been a promise made to David about the time he departed Jerusalem when he fled from Absalom; at the least it's the description of victory. Walking in the blood of his enemies, the dogs licking their blood.

**Psalm 58:10** “The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.”

V: 24-27 David is describing that corporate, that national worship that took place 3 times a year at the mandatory feasts of Israel. Try to imagine millions of people packing into Jerusalem, into the area around the Tabernacle of God.

- Imagine millions of people gathering in Washington DC to worship the Lord, voices mingled together, lifting up praise to the Lord! David is describing something like that.

**Psalm 100:4** “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.”

- All the tribes, all the nation being represented: Zebulun & Naphtali to the North, Judah and Benjamin to the South.

V: 28-29 God has ordained certain things, promised certain things, His strength for the people. Confirm it, strengthen it - make it so Lord, make it come to pass.

- Kings will present themselves unto God at His holy Temple; this probably happened in David's time, perhaps speaking prophetically of Solomon's time. It will certainly happen in the kingdom age to come as the kings of the earth present themselves before our Lord and give Him gifts and homage.

[Speaking of the heavenly Jerusalem:](#)

**Revelation 21:24** “And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.”

V: 30-32 Speaking again, prophetically of the glorious reign of Jesus Christ over all the earth when the nations would come and stretch out their hands in worship to God.

- Describing the Millennial reign of Christ. The exhortation to sing praises to our God!

V: 33-35 Part of the exhortation to “Sing unto God...” To Him that rideth upon or over the heavens, the “heaven of heavens” just in case we weren't getting it.

- God sends out His mighty voice - presumably calling out to His creation, beckoning us to Himself!
- <sup>34</sup>Ascribe strength to God - glorify Him.
- His excellency; His majesty is over all Israel - and in fact over all the earth!
- God is awesome! He gives strength and power to His people.

**Isaiah 40:29** “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.”

- Feeling faint? Feeling weak? Turn to Him that gives power to the faint and strength to the weak!

***“Blessed be God!”***