

Why Worship God?

Psalm 66:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Song. A Psalm.

[1] *Shout for joy to God, all the earth;*

[2] *sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!*

[3] *Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"*

The Psalmist tells us to shout, sing, praise, and say worshipful thing to God. **Why?**

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH REASONS TO WORSHIP GOD.

I've noted 10 reasons the writer gives us to worship God.

Reason #1 - God's power rules over His enemies. **66:3**

God's enemies, in the end, do not win. The repeated warning of the Bible is that if you dig your feet in to the ground against God, eventually, He will bring you down.

Reason #2 - One day all the earth will worship the God of the Bible. **66:4**

As far as I know, there are 3 ways people understand this verse. #1 - this is a general claim that there are worshippers of God all over the earth, but it doesn't mean that's the case for every single person. #2 - Someday the earth will be completely full of worshippers of God who sing praises to Him. #3 - This is a wishful command by the writer - let all the earth worship God.

I personally think all three can be at play here without contradicting each other.

Reason #3 - God is a God who rescues and delivers His people. **66:5-6**

The nation of Israel crossed the through the red sea and the Jordan River on dry ground. The Red Sea crossing delivered them from slavery. The Jordan River crossing delivered them unto the promised land.

Today, we have another event to look back on - an event the Red Sea was pointing to. What awesome deed has God done for the children of men that we get to now look back on and say, "it's there that we rejoice in God." The cross.

Reason #4 - God is eternally in control of the affairs of this world. **66:7**

Not only did God deliver Israel, but during Israel's deliverance, He was judging His enemy nations. Egypt suffered a horribly embarrassing loss at the Red Sea, and once Joshua led Israel into Canaan, God judged many nations through the armies of Israel.

God ties up loose ends. He pays attention to everything. He will settle everything. God will not only deliver those two are His, but He will deal justly with those who aren't.

Reason #5 - God gives life and safety to His people. **66:8-9**

Just like God has preserved Israel, God has kept our souls among the living, that is, if you have placed your faith in Jesus. God is the giver of life. He breathed into the man, and the man became a living being, but also God is the giver of eternal life to those who would believe in His Son.

Reason #6 - God uses tests and trials to refine and bless His people. **66:10-12**

God is in the business of making His people pure. When God saves and rescues His people, it's like He has searched them out of the ground and mined them up. Once they are His, He begins a work of refining, where His people go through testing and trials, making them pure.

Reason #7 - God is worth making sacrifices for. **66:13-15**

Apparently the writer found himself in a time of trouble in his life. During this time he made a promise to God. When he found himself no longer in the trouble he faced, he made sure to keep his vow to God. He went to the house of God to offer burnt offerings. These burnt offerings are worship offerings, not necessarily sin offerings.

Charles Spurgeon said, "Never attempt to come before God without Jesus, the divinely promised, given, and accepted burnt offering."

God is a God who works with people based off of a sacrifice. The sacrifice was made by Jesus, and He is the sacrifice. In light of that amazing sacrifice that Jesus made for us, I think the writer of this Psalm is on to something. God is worth making sacrifices for.

Reason #8 - God listens to His people. **66:16-17**

According to this Psalmist, God is a God worth worshiping because He listens.

God has a way of drawing near to those who draw near to Him. His presence is known by those who come to Him in prayer and worship.

Reason #9 - God confronts His people on their sin. **66:18-19**

He makes you come face to face with the reality of your own sin, but then He changes your heart to make you want righteousness above sin. He makes you want a relationship and fellowship with God over wanting a relationship and fellowship with sin.

Are you one today who can say, "praise God. He has called me out and changed my heart. I know my own sinfulness and yet, God has delivered me from it. Although I'll never be sinless on this side of heaven, I now have a heart attitude that is faced toward God rather than sin."

Reason #10 - God loves His people with endurance. **66:20**

I can't help but read this and think that the psalmist is trying to tell us that in a time of trouble and darkness in his own life, he believed God should not have listened to him and that God should have removed His love from him, but to his surprise, God's love endured.

The People of God have more than enough reasons to worship God.

In light of the reasons, are you willing to worship Him?

