

Delight and Declare

Psalm 66

Occasion -> A song of thanksgiving connected with a special deliverance.

vs. 1-12, Celebration of God's redemptive acts.

vs. 13-20, Poem of Thanksgiving

A representative leader speaking on behalf of the community.

vs. 1-4, Praise God for his awesome deeds.

awe-inspiring

terrifying

These deeds require a reaction from us.

The proper reaction is a real understanding of God's power (we feel fear).

We must grab hold of and embrace the good fear of God.

Why do we worship? What does it mean to amplify Jesus?

vs. 5-7, Come and see (remember)

He turned the sea into dry land. -> The Exodus (Ex. 14-15)

They crossed the river on foot. -> Entering the Promised Land (Joshua 3-4)

Imagery in the OT is important

Waters = chaos

God controls the waters = he has power over chaos

This should be sufficient knowledge to know not to rebel!

vs. 8, Let the sound of his praise be heard.

A deep desire and passion that God would be praised in the lives of our friends.

The goal of our proclamation is so others may understand for themselves God's gift of salvation through Jesus the Messiah.

Watching lives transform because they have seen the awe-inspiring deeds of God.

They have embraced the consequences of sin and received God's gift of forgiveness.

They begin to experience the saving power of Jesus and join God's people in worship.

Fruit begins to grow.

Faith in God's word is strengthened.

Faith in Jesus is established.

They begin to experience and collect stories of their own demonstrating the goodness, joy, and peace that God has given to their souls.

vs. 9, He keeps us alive. He is an ever-present help.

Past, Present, and in the Future God continues to save, intervene, and act.

vs. 10-12, God tested us.

He refines us as silver is refined.

There is a process of purification.

It takes place through trial.

Yet, you brought us out to abundance.

What does it mean to exist in abundance? How do we deal concerning trial with an understanding of abundance?

vs. 13-15, I will come to your temple. I will follow through on the promises I made to you.

Worship / Sacrifice

Deuteronomy 12:6-7 You are to bring there your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tenths and personal contributions, your vow offerings and freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. **7** You will eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice with your household in everything you do, because the Lord your God has blessed you.

Psalm 22:25 I will give praise in the great assembly
because of you;
I will fulfill my vows
before those who fear you.

Psalm 56:12-13 I am obligated by vows[a] to you, God;
I will make my thanksgiving sacrifices to you.
13 For you rescued me from death, even my feet from stumbling,
to walk before God in the light of life.

(Leviticus 7:16, 22:23; Psalm 13:6, 27:6, 35:18, 54:6, 61:5, 65:1, 69:30-31, 116:1-4, 132:2)

Worship -> communal and individual

Personal wholeness and holiness are nurtured in fellowship with others who share faith (church family).

It is our worship (communal and individual) that displays

1. The greatness of God.
 2. Our complete dependence on him.
- The individual becomes part of the group (covenant membership).
 - The group collectively shares the lament, praise, confession, and thanksgiving of the individual.
 - The formation of spiritual well-being (wholeness and holiness) are fruit of a worshipping community.

vs. 16-20, Come and Listen

Listen to me tell the stories of God.

Be a person who tells the stories of God.

The Lord does listen!

Am I aware of the areas in me that are broken, divided, and filled with unrest (opposite of wholeness)? Am I clinging to the things not from God (opposite of holiness)?
Do I cling to sin? -or- Do I cling to righteousness?

John 9:31 We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him.

Are we truly experiencing God and are we telling the stories of those experiences?

We must actively engage in remembering and engaging in these types of conversations.

Are we remembering the great deed of salvation that has taken place in us?

Are we remembering the cross of Christ?

Are we remembering God's activity in our personal lives?

Increasing our intensity

- By knowing God's mercy in salvation we desire for him to be worshiped not only in fear, but in joy as well.
- The manner of our worship should reflect the matter of his glory.

This is what corporate worship is about.

- It brings unity to the family (the gathered church).
 - It celebrates salvation.
 - It exalts the truth of God.
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- We arrive, plug in, and wait expectantly to be filled. We are looking to the future. Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God (vs. 1).
 - Salvation will come.
 - The church will continue to grow and gather.
 - Worship will not be contained.
 - Burnt offerings were the most costly to give. It was completely consumed. It dealt with the seriousness of sin.
 - Other offerings were preserved allowing the worshipper to eat.

Are we ready this fall semester to engage completely in God's presence?