

Psalm 66 Bless God For What He has done to my Soul!

To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm.

1 Make a **joyful shout** to God, all the earth! **2** Sing out the **honor of His name**; Make His praise glorious. **3** Say to God, "**How awesome are Your works!** Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. **4** All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah **5** Come and see the works of God; He is **awesome** in His doing toward the sons of men. **6** He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. **7** He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah **8** Oh, **bless our God**, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, **9** Who **keeps our soul among the living**, And does not allow our feet to be moved. **10** For You, O God, have **tested us**; You have **refined us** as silver is refined. **11** **You** brought us into the net; **You** laid affliction on our backs. **12** You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; **But You brought us out to rich fulfillment**. **13** I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, **14** Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. **15** I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah **16** Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will **declare what He has done for my soul**. **17** I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. **18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, The **Lord will not hear**. **19** But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. **20** Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

- Author unknown
- **Vv1-7**

Call to Praise our Awesome God

- **Awesome:** heb. *yaw-ray'* also trans Terrible: lit. To inspire fear, reverence, awe. His...

1. Name is Awesome	YHWH I AM. Becoming One
2. Works are Awesome	Come and see! v5
3. Ways are Awesome	Delivering us from Egypt [world]

We remember how He made a way

Turned the raging sea into dry land for us to cross over

- **V8-9 Bless God.** To make one happy. God bless America? **America bless God**

Awesome. He who keeps our soul among the living/sustains us!

Also the one who teaches us/conforms us...

- **10-12 Praising God for His discipline?**

Hebrews 12:7 If you endure chastening [lit. It is for discipline that you endure *because...*] God deals **with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **...11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless,

afterward it yields the **peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

- **Chastening:** All Suffering in believers life: Caused by self/others/God/Satan as allowed by God

When Satan is working in a believer's life...God is also working for a greater purpose. [NJC]

Romans 8:28 All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose...to be **conformed into the image of His Son...**

- **Chasten:** lit. Discipline w/rt word Disciple meaning **learner. Learning is a choice.**

Result of being trained by discipline?
God brings us out of a rut and into rich fulfillment! V12

Isaiah 48:10 ... I have **tested you** in the **furnace of affliction.**

Malachi 3:3 [God sits] as a **refiner and a purifier** of silver...purge them as gold and silver, [why?] **That they may** offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

Patently Scrapes Dross off the Molten Silver of our lives until...
Sees His own reflection/We realize we are becoming more like Him

- **Vv 13-15** Fruit of accepting/learning from discipline
 1. **Desire to be w/God** I will go into Your house
 2. **Desire to please God** I will offer Sacrifices/Pay Vows

Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined you, **but not as silver**; I have tested you in the **furnace of affliction.**

- **God Refines Us:** Not exactly like Silver...

The silversmith refines silver for his own benefit
God refines us solely for our benefit
- **V16 Fruit of Discipline** leads to worship. Worship inspires others

Come and hear all you who fear God
I will declare what He has done for my soul!

1 Peter 1:7 ... that the genuineness of your faith, being much **more precious than gold** that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be **found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...**

Holidays can be trying Emotionally/Spiritually/Relationally
We emerge victorious realizing God is more interested in our growth than our comfort

Winter in the soul is by no means a comfortable season, and if it be upon you just now it will be very painful to you: but there is this comfort, namely, that the **Lord makes it**. He sends the sharp blasts of adversity to nip the buds of expectation: He scatters the frost like ashes over the once green meadows of our joy: He casts forth His ice like morsels freezing the streams of our delight. He does it all, He is the great Winter King, and rules in the realms

of frost, and therefore you cannot murmur. Losses, crosses, heaviness, sickness, poverty, and a thousand other ills, **are of the Lord's sending**, and come to us with wise design. Frosts kills noxious insects and slows raging blight; it **breaks up the clods, and sweeten the soil**. O that such good results would always follow our winters of affliction!

If the Lord wants me here I don't understand why it's so hard!
I don't understand the question...Why wouldn't it be?

- **Vv 17 I cried/God answered**
- **Vv 18** If I regard sin in my heart God will not hear? Clean the slate

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. **2** But **your iniquities have separated you** from your God; And your **sins have hidden His face** from you, So that **He will not hear**.

1 John 1:9 [Cleansed of sin] If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us **our sins** and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.

- **Vv 19-20** Psalmist again **blesses God**

He has heard me...I will bless Him

Psalm 67 Bless Us that we might Bless Others

To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

1 God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah **2** That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. **3** Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. **4** Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah **5** Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. **6** Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. **7** God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

- Author unknown

Numbers 6:25 The Lord **make His face shine upon you**, And be gracious to you...

- **Vv1-4 God shines on us/We shine on others**
- **Vv 5 Result:** Others would join praising God
- **Vv 6-7 Bless us that we might be a blessing to others**

Moses face shone after being in the presence of God
God is Light. We are called to be the Light of the World

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God **in the face of Jesus Christ**.

God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him

Psalm 68 The Glory of God in His Goodness to Israel

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of **David**. A Song.

1 Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. **2** As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God. **3** But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. **4** Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name Yah, And rejoice before Him. **5** A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. **6** God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land. **7** O God, when You went out before Your people, When You marched through the wilderness, Selah **8** The earth shook; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. **9** You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary. **10** Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor. **11** The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it: **12** "Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home divides the spoil. **13** 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." **14** When the Almighty scattered kings in it, It was white as snow in Zalmon. **15** A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan; A mountain of many peaks is the mountain of Bashan. **16** Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of many peaks? This is the mountain which God desires to dwell in; Yes, the Lord will dwell in it forever. **17** The chariots of God are twenty thousand, Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place. **18** You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the Lord God might dwell there. **19** Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah **20** Our God is the God of salvation; And to God the Lord belong escapes from death. **21** But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses. **22** The Lord said, "I will bring back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea, **23** That your foot may crush them in blood, And the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from your enemies." **24** They have seen Your procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary. **25** The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; Among them were the maidens playing timbrels. **26** Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel. **27** There is little Benjamin, their leader, The princes of Judah and their company, The princes of Zebulun and the princes of Naphtali. **28** Your God has commanded your strength; Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us. **29** Because of Your temple at Jerusalem, Kings will bring presents to You. **30** Rebuke the beasts of the reeds, The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples, Till everyone submits himself with pieces of silver. Scatter the peoples who delight in war. **31** Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God. **32** Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the Lord, Selah **33** To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens, which were of old! Indeed, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice. **34** Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, And His strength is in the clouds. **35** O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!

Most commentators believe this psalm is connected with the coming of the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem [2 Sam 6], celebrating not only that event, but also the faithfulness of God to give Israel victory over her enemies, and to make Jerusalem secure enough to bring the ark into the city.

I know not how to undertake a comment on this psalm: **it is the most difficult...** [Clarke]

- David
- **Vv 1-4** Let the Enemies of God Perish/Let the Righteous Rejoice
- **Vv 5-6** This is our God
 1. **Father** to fatherless
 2. **Defender** of widows
 3. **Liberator** of those bound in sin
- **Vv 7-8 Exodus**/Earth shook giving of Law on Sinai
- **Vv 9-17** Taking of the Land
 1. **Land of Milk/Honey**: God provides rain
 2. **Scattering of Pagan Kings** [Mountains] by 20,000 Chariots of God
- **V18 Jesus ascends** to Father/Sends His Holy Spirit

Jesus ascended on high...Led captivity captive and...
Lit. as per NT **Gave gifts to men**
- **3 Days**: Jesus took thief/righteous to from Paradise to Heaven
- Gave gift of Holy Spirit to His church...

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "**When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.**" 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry

- **Every believer has gift of the Spirit** Wisdom/Power/Understand God's Word
- **Every believer has a Spiritual gift** Teaching, knowledge, administration
- **V 19...**

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits
The God of our Salvation!

- **Vv 20-30 Blessing to God's people**/Judgment on enemies [Specific to Israel]
- **Vv 31-32 Blessing of Millennium**: Kingdoms of earth now worshipping Jesus
- **Vv 33-35 Adulation from all God's People...**

To Him who rides on the Heaven of Heavens

Deuteronomy 33:26 [God] rides the heavens to help you/In His excellency on the clouds.

Psalms 18:10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.

Psalm 69 Urgent Plea for Help in Trouble. Messianic

To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A Psalm of **David**.

1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. **2** I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me. **3** I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. **4** Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it. **5** O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You. **6** Let not those who wait for You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel. **7** Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face. **8** I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children; **9** Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. **10** When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, That became my reproach. **11** I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. **12** Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards. **13** But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation. **14** Deliver me out of the mire, And let me not sink; Let me be delivered from those who hate me, And out of the deep waters. **15** Let not the floodwater overflow me, Nor let the deep swallow me up; And let not the pit shut its mouth on me. **16** Hear me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness is good; Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies. **17** And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in trouble; Hear me speedily. **18** Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies. **19** You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. **20** Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. **21** They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. **22** Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. **23** Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually. **24** Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. **25** Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents. **26** For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. **27** Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness. **28** Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous. **29** But I am poor and sorrowful; Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high. **30** I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. **31** This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull, Which has horns and hooves. **32** The humble shall see this and be glad; And you who seek God, your hearts shall live. **33** For the Lord hears the poor, And does not despise His prisoners. **34** Let heaven and earth praise Him, The seas and everything that moves in them. **35** For God will save Zion And build the cities of Judah, That they may dwell there and possess it. **36** Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it, And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

- David
- **Vv 1-5 Messianic:** Speaks of Jesus...
 1. **Trapped** Pit/Mud/Water to neck
 2. **Tired** Out of tears
 3. **Misunderstood** Slandered/Humiliated
 4. **Hated w/out cause** C.f. John 15:23-25

Isaiah 53:3 He is **despised and rejected by men**, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We hid... our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- **V6**

Let not those who wait for You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of me
Let not those who seek You be confused because of me

- **Vv7-9 Black Sheep:** Reproached/Alienated for standing on Your Word

Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up
Accusations of those who accuse You have fallen on Me

John 2:17 [Jesus cleanses the temple] Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **"Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."**

Romans 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, **"The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."** 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

- **Vv 10-12** David/Jesus
 1. **Byword:** IOWs stop being a David
 2. **Song of Drunks:** Mockery

- **V 13...**

But as for me...my prayer is to You, O Lord, **in the acceptable time**
O God, in the multitude of Your mercy...Hear me in the truth of Your salvation

- **Vv 14-17** Prayer for help
- **Vv 18-21** Messianic prayer for help
 1. **Crying for help** My God My God why have You forsaken Me?
 2. **Broken Hearted** Reproach has broken My heart
 3. **Alone** I looked but there were none to comfort Me
 4. **Thirsty** Vinegar to drink...c.f. Mat 27

Jesus response: Forgive them. They know not what they do

- **Vv22-25 David...not so much**
 1. **Make** their table [Abundance/Peace/Security] a snare. [C.f. Rom. 11:9-11]
 2. **Catch** them in own snares/traps
 3. **Blind** them/Shake loins
 4. **Destroy** homes...why so harsh?

V26 They mock those God is disciplining ...Kick them while down

Psalm 22:7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

- **Vv 26-28...**Pour salt wounds/add insult to injury of God's people

They persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness. Let them be **blotted out of the book of the living**, And not be written with the righteous.

- **Vv29-34 Even so...**

1. **Save me**/Set me on high/I will praise You w/song
2. **I will magnify** You w/ Thanksgiving [Better than ox/bull]
3. **Hear my** contrite heart/Don't despise my weakness

We who seek God...Our Hearts will Live
We walk by faith and not sight

- **Vv 35-36** David's Eternal Perspective: No matter what things look like now...

God will save Zion and those who love His name shall dwell in it

Psalm 70 Prayer for Relief from Adversaries

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of **David**. To bring to remembrance.

1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! 2 Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt. 3 Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "**Aha, aha!**" 4 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" 5 But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

- **David**. Similar to Psalm 40
- **Vv 1-5** Judge the Accuser/Deliver those who seek You

Satan will utilize demons/others to accuse us. Get used to it
This was Jesus life 24/7...Accusations/Traps/Snares

God is our Wisdom/Discernment and Deliverer