

## Psalms 65

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 65 - and as we make our way to the 65th Psalm...

...I wanna begin by first pointing out that this Psalm was written by king David - - and for the purpose of corporate praise.

And while we aren't provided with the historical context surrounding the lyrics of this Psalm...

...what we do know is that David referred to these lyrics as both a Psalm - and a Song.

As a matter of fact - it's there in the superscription section - where we learn that this is a PSALM of David...

...which is to say that this poem was set to notes - for the purpose of being sung with instrumental music.

David also referred to this poem as a SONG - which was translated from a Hebrew word...

...used to indicate a type of lyrical song - or a religious song - or a specific song of Levitical choirs.

Spurgeon described this distinction that David presented - by declaring...

The Hebrew calls it a Shur and Mizmor, a combination of psalm and song, which may be best described by the term, "A Lyrical Poem." In this case the Psalm may be said or sung, and be equally suitable.

In other words - King David wanted the children of Israel to know that...

...this Psalm was not only a sacred song - which should be sung at the temple...

...but it was also a professional poem which should be proclaimed by those...

...who simply want to praise the Lord with this devotional prayer.

If you ever feel like you want to praise the Lord - - but you're struggling to find the right words...

...then - you might open your Bible to this Psalm - and use the lyrics of this song...

...as a point of inspiration - which can help us to prayerfully proclaim the praises of God.

And with this as our focus - we're going to spend our time tonight - considering the content of this psalm...

...so that we can become those believers - who are able to praise the Lord...

...both corporately - in the congregation - - and personally - in our time of devotion.

Let's turn our attention to the 65th Psalm - where we find David - prayerfully praising the God of Zion.

Look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where King David writes...

Psa 65:1      To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.  
Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;  
And to You the vow shall be performed.  
Psa 65:2      O You who hear prayer,  
To You all flesh will come.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find King David - reminding his readers that...

...the proclamations of praise - are due to our God - there on Mount Zion.

And just to be clear - that word - praise - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in reference to the songs and hymns that pay tribute to God...

...through the lyrics that magnify the qualities - or the deeds - or the attributes of God.

As we consider the qualities - the deeds - and the attributes of God...

...there should be no doubt that the God of Zion deserves to be praised.

And listen - we should sing His praises - with songs that center our attention - on His holy character.

At the same time - we should also test the content of the songs we sing...

...and the reason why is because - there are many songs that are sold as songs of praise...

...and yet - it's really just narcissistic nonsense.

For example - let's consider the lyrical content of Megan Woods song - titled - the truth.

In this song that was released last year - she sings...

The truth is I am my Father's child  
I make Him proud, and I make Him smile  
I was made in the image of a perfect King  
He looks at me and wouldn't change a thing

Now - listen - this might sound like a praise song - but it's not.

The Christian who truly believes that God wouldn't change a thing in their lives...

...is really just singing their own praises.

Another example can be found in Bethel's song - Champion - which includes this lyrics bridge...

When I lift my voice and shout  
Every wall comes crashing down  
I have the authority Jesus has given me  
When I open up my mouth  
Miracles start breaking out  
I have the authority Jesus has given me

These lyrics are clearly rooted in the heresy of word faith theology...

...which is based on the belief that our words are containers of power...

...that enable us to force God to do our will.

Sadly - I could fill the rest of our time tonight with examples of lyrics from so-called - Christian artists...

...that fail to focus on the qualities - the deeds - and the attributes of God.

And it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to consider the lyrical content of the praise songs we sing...

...so that we can avoid those songs that are nothing more than narcissistic nonsense.

With this as our goal - let's continue to consider the lyrical content of this Psalm.

Look with me again - there at verse 1 - where King David declared...

Psa 65:1 Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;  
And to You the vow shall be performed.  
Psa 65:2 O You who hear prayer,  
To You all flesh will come.

As we take another look at these verses - we should take some time to consider how David equated praising the Lord...

...with the promise to perform his vow - - which he presented during a time of prayer.

That word - vow - found there in verse 1 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in a general sense - of the votive offerings...

...or the free will gifts that a person has promised to God.

Simply put - King David not only sang the praises of God - - but...

...he also praised the Lord - by presenting Him with the offerings that he promised to give.

And then - he went on to praise the Lord - as he rejoiced in knowing that...

...the Lord is willing to hear the prayers of those who humbly come to Him

That word - prayer - found there in verse 2 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which - in this context - was used in reference to a poetic - or liturgical prayer...

...which could be a hymn - or a sacred song.

The same Hebrew word was also used of the intercession that's based on self-deprecation.

And it's for this reason that the scholars who created the Good News Translation - render these verses in this way...

O God, it is right for us to praise you in Zion  
and keep our promises to you,  
because you answer prayers.  
People everywhere will come to you  
on account of their sins.

When it comes to the praises that we present to the  
Lord...

...it would be foolish for us to think that - He looks at  
us - and wouldn't change a thing.

No - instead - those who want to properly sing  
the praises of God...

...should remember that we are able to  
prayerfully approach the Lord...

...because of what He has done for us.

Let's consider how King David put it - here in the 65th Psalm.

Look with me - there at verse 3 - where David declared...

Psa 65:3      Iniquities prevail against me;  
As for our transgressions,  
You will provide atonement for them.

Here in this verse - we find King David - confessing his Iniquities - and his  
transgressions.

Just to be clear - that word - Iniquities - was translated from a  
Hebrew word - which speaks of perversity and depravity.

And the word - transgressions - was translated from a Hebrew  
word...

...which speaks of the willful trespass of sinful rebellion.

I like the way that the scholars who created the New English Translation rendered verse 3 - they put it like this...

Psa 65:3    Our record of sins overwhelms me, but you forgive our acts of rebellion.

Here in this humble confession - we find King David - acknowledging the fact that he was overwhelmed by the iniquities of Israel.

And at the same time - he praised the Lord for faithfully forgiving them...

...according to the atonement that the God of Zion provided through the daily sacrifices.

Just to be clear about this - it'll help you to know that - the word - atonement - which is found there in verse 3...

...was translated from a Hebrew word which - in this context - speaks of both the pardoning - and purging of sin.

That's right - God is the One Who alone can pardon our sins - - and purge them from our ledger.

And in order to understand how - - it'll help you to know that the Hebrew word - rendered - atonement...

...also refers to the propitiation that results in reconciliation.

In order to grasp these theological terms - it'll help you to know that the word - propitiation...

...refers to the atoning sacrifice that appeases the righteous requirement of God.

Just to be clear - it was during the days of King David - when propitiation was achieved...

...through the sacrificial animals that were offered at the tabernacle - on behalf of the people.

In this way - the sins of the people were atoned for - through the substitutionary sacrifices...

...which were offered up to the Lord.

It's also important for us to understand that - the sacrificial system of the Old Testament - was prophetically pointing to Jesus.

And it was Christ Jesus Who fulfilled the shadows - and symbols of those substitutionary sacrifices.

Let's consider how Paul put it in Romans chapter 3 - it's verses 19 thru 26 - where he declared...

Rom 3:19      Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Rom 3:20      Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 3:21      But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22      even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Rom 3:23      for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:24      being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 3:25      whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Rom 3:26      to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

God the Father sent His only begotten Son - to offer Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins...

...so that He could remain just - by punishing every sin...

...while also becoming the justifier - of those who trust in Jesus.

In light of these things - those who trust in Jesus should sing the praises of our God - as we realize that...

...the Lord has provided atonement for sinners like us - through the substitutionary sacrifice of our Savior.

In this way - our God has enabled us to dwell in His heavenly courts - forevermore.

Let's consider how David explained it - here in the 65th Psalm.

Look with me - there at verse 4 - where King David declared...

Psa 65:4      Blessed is the man You choose,  
And cause to approach You,  
That he may dwell in Your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,  
Of Your holy temple.

Here in this verse - we find David - singing the praises of the One Who has enabled us to approach Him.

I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered this verse - they put it like this...

Psa 65:4    What joy for those you choose to bring near,  
those who live in your holy courts.  
What festivities await us  
inside your holy Temple.

Christian - listen - God is the One Who chooses to bring us near...

...so that we can enter into His courts with praise.

Now - in order to understand how God has chosen to bring us near - I should remind you of the point Paul made in Ephesians chapter 1.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

According to Paul - it was before the foundation of the world - when God the Father chose us - in Christ...

...so that we might all become believers - who are blameless in His sight.

And to this end - God predestined us to become His adopted children...

...according to the good pleasure of His will.

Now - this is great news - and one reason why is because - we would never choose to trust in the Lord - unless He first chose us.

And so - we can rejoice in knowing that He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world - so that we might trust in Jesus.

Not only that - but - He is the One Who also drew us near - through the cross of Christ.

I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained this - in John chapter 12 - beginning at verse 31 - He declared

Jhn 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Jhn 12:32 “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

Jhn 12:33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

God the Father chose His only begotten Son - to draw all people to Himself - through the cross of Christ.

And in this way - He's given every person the option - and the opportunity...

...to enter His heavenly courts - by faith in Jesus.

That being the case - we should follow in the footsteps of King David...

...by singing the praises of the One Who predetermined a plan of salvation...

...and then caused us to approach Him - by drawing us to the cross of Christ Jesus.

We can also rejoice in knowing that those who answer the call of Christ - by embrace this predetermined plan of salvation...

...will dwell in the courts of our Lord - as we continue to be satisfied with the goodness of our God...

...as we dwell in the house of the Lord - forevermore.

And listen - we should not only Praise Him because He draws us - - but we should also praise Him - because He has the power to save us.

Let's consider how King David put it - here in the 65th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 65:5 By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us,  
O God of our salvation,  
You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth,

And of the far-off seas;  
Psa 65:6      Who established the mountains by His strength,  
Being clothed with power;  
Psa 65:7      You who still the noise of the seas,  
The noise of their waves,  
And the tumult of the peoples.

Here in these verses - we find King David - singing the praises of the Lord...

...and the reason why is because - God has not only chosen to save us - according to His predetermined plan...

...but - He also has the power to accomplish His predetermined plan of salvation.

With this in mind - let's consider again how King David put it - there in verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 65:5a By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us,  
O God of our salvation...

I like the way that the scholars who created the New English Translation rendered verse 5 - they put it like this...

Psa 65:5a You answer our prayers by performing awesome acts of deliverance, O God, our savior.

In other words - God not only has a plan of salvation...

...He also has the power to perform the awesome deeds - that results in our deliverance.

King David proceeded to prove his point - there in verse 6 - by declaring...

Psa 65:6      Who established the mountains by His strength,  
Being clothed with power;

In other words - our Savior is the One Who formed the mountains - according to His supernatural strength.

And it's for this reason that David described our Creator - as the God Who is clothed with power.

Think about that for a moment - our God is clothed with almighty power.

In order to grasp the great power of our almighty God - King David described the way that He is able to control the seas - and the nations.

Notice with me again - there in verse 7 - where he declared...

Psa 65:7    You who still the noise of the seas,  
The noise of their waves,  
And the tumult of the peoples.

In other words - our God has the power to quiet the raging oceans with their pounding waves...

...and not only that - but - He also has the power to silence the raging of the nations.

And so - whether we're talking about the many waters of world governments...

...or the raging seas of this world's oceans - - our God is infinitely more powerful.

This reminds me of the way that the Lord Jesus rebuked the wind - and the waves - there in the Sea of Galilee.

It's in Luke chapter 8 - verses 22 thru 25 - where Luke tells us that...

Luk 8:22    ...it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

Luk 8:23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.

Luk 8:24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

Luk 8:25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - demonstrating His almighty power over His creation.

And as we consider the way that He rebuked the wind - and the waves...

...we can rejoice in knowing that there's coming a day when He will also rebuke the nations that rage...

...against His right to rule over the Kingdoms of the Earth.

Not only that - but - we can also rejoice in knowing that the Savior Who has the power to rebuke the wind and the waves...

...is also able to save those who trust in Him - according to His predetermined plan.

And this is true - even when the storms of this world - threaten to sink our ship.

If the trials and troubles of this world are overwhelming you tonight...

...please trust me when I tell you that - we can be confident in Christ's power...

...to save those who trust in Him.

With all of this in mind - let we should Praise our God - because He not only predetermined to save us through the cross of Christ - but...

...He also proved He has the power to accomplish His predetermined plan...

...by calming the wind - and the waves - with nothing more than a word.

Not only that - but - He also proved He has the power to accomplish His predetermined plan...

...by rising up from the tomb - on the third day.

I like the way that Paul put it in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

1Co 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1Co 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

The Lord Jesus demonstrated His power over death - and the grave...

...on the day when He rose up from the tomb.

And it's the gospel of grace that contains the power of God for salvation...

...to everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus.

And it's for this reason that we should sing the praises...

...of the One Who has the power to save  
us from the punishment we deserve.

Not only that - but - we should also sing the praises of the One - Who is able to  
provide us with everything we need.

Let's consider how King David put it - here in the 65th Psalm - look with me  
beginning there at verse 8 - where he declared...

Psa 65:8      They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your  
signs;

You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.

Psa 65:9      You visit the earth and water it,

You greatly enrich it;

The river of God is full of water;

You provide their grain,

For so You have prepared it.

Psa 65:10    You water its ridges abundantly,

You settle its furrows;

You make it soft with showers,

You bless its growth.

Here in these verses - we find King David - singing the praises of the One  
Who send His rain on the just - and the unjust.

Not only that - but - the Lord is also the One - Who created an  
agricultural system...

...that allows the grains - and fruits of the earth - to be  
cultivated and harvested for our daily provision.

And it's for this reason that King David sang the praises of  
God...

...for the water that quenches our thirst - and the  
grain that fills our stomachs.

Not only that - but - David also praised the Lord - for the herds that supplied them  
with meat.

As a matter of fact - look me again - there at the 65th Psalm - beginning there at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

Psa 65:11    You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.

Psa 65:12    They drop on the pastures of the wilderness,  
And the little hills rejoice on every side.

Psa 65:13    The pastures are clothed with flocks;  
The valleys also are covered with grain;  
They shout for joy, they also sing.

Here in the final verses of this song - we find King David - singing the praises of the One...

...Who fills the earth with the grass that feeds the flocks - that provides us with milk - meat - and yes - cheese.

It's for this reason that I sing the praises of God - every time I eat a cheeseburger.

Think about it - a cheeseburger has a bun - made from the grains that God gave us.

It has beef from the cattle that God created...

...as well as cheese - from the milk of the cows.

All I can say is - praise the Lord.

Christian - listen - there are so many reasons for us to sing the praises of our God.

Whether we're talking about the way that He provides atonement - according to His predetermined plan of salvation...

...or we're talking about the power - by which He will eventually provide every believer with a resurrected body....

...we should sing the praises of the God Who sent His only begotten Son - to save sinners like us.

And whether we're talking about the way that the Lord provides us with the provisions we need...

...like the daily bread that sustains us - or the milk - and the meat that nourishes our bodies...

...we should sing the praises of the One - Who's provisions are always perfect.

And listen - this is just the shortlist of all the reasons to sing His praises.

We should sing the praises of our God - because - He is immutably perfect...

...and We should sing the praises of our God - because - He always does what is right.

We should sing the praises of our God - because - He has settled His word in Heaven - forever...

And we should sing the praises of our God - because - He has provided us with a church family...

...in which we can corporately proclaim His praises - and all for the glory of God.

To sum it up simply - there are many - many reasons for us to proclaim the praises of the Lord...

...and so - we should encourage one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...

...as we sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

And if you run out of reasons to sing the praises of God then - you might reread the lyrics of this song...

...in order to be refreshed with all of the reasons that King David sang the praises of God.