



**November 27, 2022 - Carissa Carter**  
**A Thanksgiving Psalm of David**

### **Psalm 65 NIV**

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. <sup>2</sup>You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. <sup>3</sup>When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. <sup>5</sup>You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, <sup>6</sup>who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, <sup>7</sup>who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. <sup>8</sup>The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. <sup>9</sup>You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. <sup>10</sup>You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. <sup>12</sup>The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. <sup>13</sup>The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

### **Psalms of communal thanksgiving:**

- express gratitude
- describe what the psalmist has been delivered from
- tribute God's saving power
- call others to join in thanking God

**Just as in Psalms, we also see this contrast of General vs Thanksgiving songs in worship.**

### **General Praises:**

- *TO God*
- *Descriptive Psalms*
- *Attributes of God*
- *(About) Who God is*

### **Songs of Thanksgiving:**

- *ABOUT God*
- *Declarative Psalms*
- *Acts of God (or)*
- *What He has done*

In general, **The Songs of Thanksgiving** express thanks and praise to God for some specific act of deliverance that the psalmist has experienced. However, their aim is not only to praise God. **They are also a form of witness to the saving work of God**, declared before the whole congregation. Because they express praise by speaking **about God**, whereas general praises express praise **to God**. Essentially, they are **our response to God's response**.

**Both styles are biblical responses of praise to God.**

V<sup>1</sup> Praise awaits You, our God, in Zion

The word "awaits" in Hebrew is **dumiyyah**, which means a **"quiet waiting" OR "praise is silence."** **Dumiyyah** is a feeling in an individual or an assembly: **It's when the soul was ready to burst forth in expressions of thanksgiving, and nothing would meet its needs but praise.** It's the anticipation, the feeling in your gut, the knot in your stomach:

- the silence before the starting gun is fired at a race
- a groom before he see's his bride
- reaching the height of a roller coaster, right before you plunge down the first hill

**That is this kind of silence.**

Do you ever feel this way when attending a church service? Are you filled with the silence of awe and expectation because you are so overwhelmed with God's goodness?

*"We live in a world where silence is seldom experienced. Whether it is the busy noise of traffic passing by, the TV blaring, or the constant interruptions of various rings and dings from our cell phones and social media, we seldom simply stop and sit before God in silence.*

*Sometimes we are so overwhelmed we don't even have words to pray.*

*We just sit in silence before God. This can be one of the greatest acts of trust and faith. In fact, this is the kind of silence that is an act of praise because:*

*We have stilled our tendency to give God advice on how to help us and how to run this world. We have stilled our tendency to offer God endless excuses for our behavior and attitudes. We no longer have solutions or strategic plans. We only have silence and trust. We begin to notice God's amazing providential care all around us. (And ) In our silence, we may even begin to hear the joyous shouts of creation. This is one of God's greatest gifts to us."*

- Timothy Tennent

"We just sit in *silence* before God... We have stilled our tendency to *give God advice* on how to help us and how to run this world."

**PRAISE AWAITS YOU**

Vs 1b "To You our vows will be fulfilled."

- This Psalms begins with a promise to fulfill "our vows," a phrase very similar to: **61:8** ("fulfill my vows day after day"); reflected in **56:12** ("I am under vows to you") and **66:13-14** ("I will ... fulfill my vows to you—**vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble**") Commentaries point out that: In most of the Psalms, David was referring to the sacrifice he would offer for the deliverance **that he knew God would bring**. He was a long distance from God's altar so the sacrifice could not yet be made; **but in David's heart it was already done, as was God's anticipated rescue!**

*"So sure is he of deliverance, that, as often in similar psalms, his thoughts are busied in preparing his sacrifice of thanks before the actual advent of the mercy for which it is to be offered."*

- Alexander Maclaren

<sup>2</sup>You who answer prayer, to you ALL PEOPLE will come. <sup>3</sup>When we were overwhelmed by sins, <sup>3</sup>You forgave our transgressions <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those You choose and bring near to live in Your courts! <sup>4</sup>We are filled with the good things of Your house, of Your holy temple.

*"When David approached God in an attitude of prayer, he was so bowed down under the weight of sin, it hindered easy access to His throne. Because he was so sin conscious, it had a great effect on his mind, rendering him dull, cold, and stupid."*

- NIV Application Commentary

**BUT, in confidence,** David goes on...

<sup>5</sup>You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, <sup>6</sup>who formed the mountains by Your power, having armed Yourself with strength, <sup>7</sup>who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

The language here expresses the rising confidence and hope of the worshippers that God would not allow those transgressions (or the weight of sin) to prevail or prevent them from worshipping Him! Yes, the weight and awareness of guilt was heavy, BUT they felt assured that God would remove it!

Again, reiterating that in holy awe and reverence, David knows that OUR God, the hope for ALL (both Israel and Gentile alike), **WILL ANSWER!**

God *answers* me.

Vs 4b *"We are filled with the good things of Your house, of Your holy temple."*

God, I *accept* your answer.

- The image portrayed in the *"goodness of Your house"* is one of **God being a gracious and generous, host**. At that time, Middle Eastern hospitality was law-bound and it meant that hosts would provide **food, lodging** and if need be, **protection** for their guests. Because that kind of hospitality was so common and embedded in Jewish culture, David confidently asserts that **God too, will abundantly provide 'good things' for the needs of His people!**

<sup>5</sup>You answer us with awesome & righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas

<sup>6</sup>who formed the mountains by Your power, having armed Yourself with strength,

<sup>7</sup>who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

<sup>8</sup>The whole earth is filled with awe at Your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, You call forth songs of joy.

<sup>9</sup>You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so You have ordained it.

<sup>10</sup>You drench its furrows and level its ridges; You soften it with showers and bless its crops.

**Not only does God forgive sin and answer our prayers, but he also provides a stabilizing influence on a world beset with turmoil.** The powerful creator of the mountains, who was able to provide effective boundaries to the chaotic waters at creation, will similarly provide limits to the power of the "nations" and "the turmoil" that results from their striving.

If God can limit the waters and stop the turmoil of nations, can He not do the same for you and I?

We have a lot to be thankful for both individually and corporately as a church. God is God, He is worthy and **HE DELIGHTS in us! But He doesn't stop there:** He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross and rise again. Because of this, we are now in right standing with Him: **We are FORGIVEN! Because**

**He has drawn near to us with His presence, His protection and provision,** we can be confident that God is both interested and involved in the details of our lives and we can say **GOD ANSWERS ME!**

God will answer and You can trust His answer.

- Sometimes that answer is a clear “yes” (you get the job, the raise, the relationship, you’re immediately healed)
- Sometimes that answer is a clear “no” (you don’t get the job, maybe you’re let go from one, the finances don’t come in OR he shuts a door of opportunity)
- Sometimes the answer is wait (You’re not healed yet, your child isn’t serving the Lord, your marriage is barely hanging in there or you’re still wrestling with the addiction)

And in those seasons of both mourning and thanksgiving, you have to hold onto the grief, the questions, the tears in one hand and gratitude in the other. May the Lord grant us the strength to do both.

It might be easy or somewhat natural to thank God or testify to others about His goodness, His forgiveness or how He delivered us from trouble when things are going according to our plan. What do we do during a season when it seems as if we don’t have an answer, OR worse: **what if we don’t like HIS answer?!**

Here are a few excerpts from the article “*When it’s kinda hard to give thanks*” by Ann Voskamp:

*Give thanks and you give yourself the gift of joy. **Which is also to say:** Counting gifts is the way you can count on more happiness. Research has discovered that those “who felt grateful showed a marked reduction in the level of cortisol, the stress hormone. They had better cardiac functioning and were more resilient to emotional setbacks and negative experiences. [The more gifts you count, less cortisol you have.](#) The more gifts you count, the more resilient you are. The more you navigate life with gratefulness, the better you can navigate life’s negative experiences.*

*When we express gratitude... our brain releases dopamine and serotonin, the two crucial neurotransmitters responsible for our emotions. [By consciously practicing gratitude every day, we can help these neural pathways to strengthen.](#) **Research concludes:** “[People who express gratitude have been shown to have a higher volume of grey matter in their right inferior temporal gyrus.](#) Grey matter in the brain serves many functions, but is primarily responsible for processing information.*

*Our brain on thanks is what turns all the lights on in our dark. The more of life’s little gifts you count, the more you can handle all of life’s big things. Whatever is coming and keeps coming hard at you, the reality always is: You can handle stress better, if you always keep gratitude in one hand. So in the midst of everything, and hard and tender things, I keep taking pen in hand, and counting gifts, giving thanks, keeping eyes on the Giver who is good and showers all us, weary-and-worn, with grace!”*

**Say: God answers me**

**Say: God, I trust your answer**

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

- Do you resonate more with either of the *thanksgiving* vs. *praise* song styles? If so, what can you do to embrace and experience both styles in your worship?
- When was the last time you spent time in silence with God?
- How has God answered you? Has it been the way you hoped?
- Do you trust Him even if the answer is “wait” or “not that way”?