

## **PSALM 66 – Praise to God for His Awesome Works!**

10/15/22 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

**JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE** Henry Van Dyke, Beethoven – London Festival Orchestra (2:02)

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee  
Opening to the sun above Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness Fill us with the light of day*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest, vale and mountain Flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee*

*Ever singing, march we onward Victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life*

**O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES** Charles Wesley - Festival Choir/Hosanna Church (1:24)

*1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of His grace!*

*2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honors of Your name.*

*3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.*

**PSALM 66 is another psalm of praise, to the one, true God, as is indicated by the first verse.**

***To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm. A Song.***

**Vs. 1-4 – Introductory Hymn Calling all Nations to Praise God!**

***Hear How Awesome Are Your Deeds***

***Psa 66:1 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!***

***Psa 66:2 Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.***

- The psalm introduces again the fact that it is a psalm of praise unto God. He is calling upon the people to make His praise glorious.

***Psa 66:3 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.***

- We look at man today in his rebellion against God and he is only able to rebel and blaspheme God because God allows him to do so. When Belteshazzar took over the kingdom of Babylon at the death of his father he ordered a great feast for all of the Lords and the princes even as the city was under siege by the Medo-Persian Empire; the feeling that they were secure, they were feasting. Belteshazzar ordered the gold and silver vessels that his grandfather had taken from the temple in Jerusalem to be brought in order that they might drink their wine out of these sacred vessels. As he was drinking his wine from these gold and silver vessels from the temple suddenly this hand was seen writing on the wall words that they could not understand.
- Daniel was brought in finally to interpret what the words declared. Before he interpreted it for Belteshazzar he gave him a sermon. The sermon in which he reminded him of his grandfather and of the tremendous kingdom that his grandfather had built and that he had inherited. He reminded him

how that his grandfather had rebelled against God and God allowed him a period of time in which he was insane in order that he might know that God ruled. Belteshazzar had not honored this God. In fact, he was then in an open blasphemy against this God by drinking his wine and praising the gods of gold and silver. He said, "The God in whose hand your very breath is you have not glorified."

- This is the tragedy of man today. God allows them to blaspheme Him, and God allows man to go along his own way. The God who created him, God allows it, and yet there will come a day when all of the enemies of God will submit to Him. The Bible tells us that God has given to Jesus Christ a name that is above every name and that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

***Psa 66:4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah***

- In that day, the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Lord will not be to salvation. For many people it will be actually a self-incrimination. They have refused to accept Him as Lord, they have refused to live for Him, but yet they will be forced to acknowledge yes, He is the Lord, but not to salvation.
- **Consider and think of His coming Millennial Reign! Forever!**

**Vs. 5-7 – Invitation to the beholder to "Come and See" the works of the Lord**

***Psa 66:5 Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.***

- Look at these awesome works of God. Now he is referring to the history of Israel. Whenever the Israelites considered their nation itself, the birth of their nation, the thing that was always paramount in their mind was how that God by the miracle parted the Red Sea so that they passed through on dry land and the Egyptians who did the same were drowned. That is something they went back to, they always remembered this awesome power and work of God in delivering them out of Egypt!

***Psa 66:6 He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.***

- God made the path through the Red Sea and though the Jordan River, they passed through on dry land!

***Psa 66:7 He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah***

**Vs. 8-12 – Joyful issues predicted from afflicted people!**

***Psa 66:8 Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,***

- It begins with praise, "***Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! (66:1)*** and now again the repetition of calling the people to bless the Lord, "***the voice of His praise to be heard" (66:8)***. I think that as children of God we should be praising God more. I think that too often we fail to recognize the hand of God in the good things in our lives. Surely when something goes wrong we are prone to blame God, "Why would God allow that to happen?" When something good happens we always sort of look at ourselves and say, "Well, I'm so smart" and we are wanting to take credit really for the good things but to blame God for the bad. I think we would be a lot wiser to turn it around, blame God for the good things and take credit ourselves for the bad.

***Psa 66:9 Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.***

- I owe my existence to God. The fact that I am here right now, I owe to God. He is the one who sustains me. He holds my life. My life is held in His hand. He said to Belteshazzar, "The very God in whose hand your breath is."
- In our bodies we have what are called voluntary and involuntary muscles. The voluntary muscles are attached to the skeleton, the frame, and are controlled by a conscience thought of the mind. The involuntary muscles of your body are not attached to the skeleton. They are not controlled by a conscience action of your mind. Your heart is an involuntary muscle. Your lungs are involuntary muscles. It is interesting that those muscles upon which your life depends upon God did not give you the mental power to control. He let you control things that are not life supporting or sustaining things.

Where it is a life sustaining muscle, He keeps control of that. He holds our soul in life, He keeps us alive, and He does not allow our feet to be moved, He establishes us.

***Psa 66:10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.***

- We are told in the scriptures that we are not to despise the trial of our faith which is more precious than gold, though it perisheth in the fire.
- Here he speaks of God proving us and trying us. The purpose of this is not to destroy us. Many times, we make a mistake when we think about the testing that God has put us through as if testing is designed to somehow destroy. The testing is designed to help us to understand ourselves in order that we might know our limitations and our weaknesses so that we will learn not to trust in ourselves but to trust in God. If there is an area in your life where you are very self-confident, where you feel you are able to handle this without any help, chances are God is going to put you through a real test in that area and you're going to fail miserably as He proves to you your need for dependence upon Him. The testing proves my weaknesses and God puts me through the testing in order that He might prove to me that I have to rely upon Him.
- The interesting thing is they say that in the testing of the silver, he makes mention of this here and in several places in the scripture it does talk about the testing or the refining of silver, "you have tried us as silver is tried." The way the silver was tried is to be heated. They would heat it and as the silver was heated the slag would be burned out. That was the purpose of the refining of silver to get rid of the impurities by this tremendous blast of heat. The molten silver and the impurities were being burned out of it. They say that as they tried this silver or as they would refine the silver they would heat it until they could see the reflection of their face in the silver.
- God has tried us as silver. That is, He puts the heat on for the purpose of burning out the impurities until when he looks at us he sees the reflection of himself. David said, "I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness," when God's reflection is seen through me. You proved us and tried us as silver is tried.

***Psa 66:11 You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.***

- Part of the testing, the trials.

***Psa 66:12 You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.***

- *Men ride over our heads.* The Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians!
- ***But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.*** God brought me through. I was tested. I was tested in the fire and tested in the water, the floods, yet God brought me into this rich place of relationship and fellowship with him.

***Vs. 13-15 – Personal confession of his own obligations to the Lord!***

***Psa 66:13 I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows,***

- He changes to the personal pronoun as now he begins to give his own personal witness of God. The burnt offerings were offerings of consecration. Too many times we think as offerings as only sin offerings. That was one of the offerings but there were many different types of offerings; there were the peace offerings, the burnt offerings and the sin offerings. The burnt offerings were offerings of consecration unto God saying, "Lord I will consecrate my life to You. My desire's burned out and Lord I will live for You." The burnt offering sacrifice is where "***I will pay You my vows***" (66:13). Usually, you vow to commit yourself to God, "Lord if You'll just help me out of this jam I promise that I will really serve You and give my life to You." So, he says now he is going to offer his burnt offering as he pays his vow unto God.

***Psa 66:14 Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.***

- That is when people usually make their vows to God when they are trouble. You are sliding off the roof and you say, "Lord stop me, and I'll serve You and I promise I'll be better." So often as the little boy sliding off the roof crying unto God for help promising to be good, when his pants got caught on a nail and he came to a ripping stop he said, "Never mind Lord, the nail stopped me." So often we are

that way. We call upon God and God delivers, and we say, “Never mind Lord” and they came through not realizing that it was God’s hand all the while.

***Psa 66:15 I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah***

- I will go in and make this consecration.

***Vs. 16-20 – “Come and hear” the special favor of the Lord to himself!***

***Psa 66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.***

- The witnessing for God, come and listen, I want to declare to you what God has done for me.

***Psa 66:17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.***

***Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.***

***Psa 66:19 But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.***

- I made my vows to God, I brought my burnt offerings, I made my commitment to God, and I cried to him, I lifted up my voice or my tongue and God heard me and has attended to the voice of my prayer.

***Psa 66:20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!***

- “*Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! (66:1)* and “*Blessed be God” (66:20)*. Notice how the psalm begins and ends. Directing our hearts, our hearts, minds and praise towards God.

***"HOW GREAT THOU ART" – Stuart Hine, Shea (2.45)***

*Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then  
I shall bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art. (Refrain)*

***FOR OUR NATION’S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -  
Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra  
Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi -  
Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez  
Obrador – Mexico; Yair Lapid – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Liz Truss – U.K.; Kim Jong-  
un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.***

***PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE  
OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:***