

WORSHIP, PRAISE, AND CONSECRATION

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Psalm 66:1-20

LESSON 187 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18)..

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 66:1-20

¹ Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:
² Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.
³ Say unto God, How terrible *art thou* in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.
⁴ All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing *to* thy name. Selah.
⁵ Come and see the works of God: *he is* terrible *in his* doing toward the children of men.
⁶ He turned the sea into dry *land*: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.
⁷ He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.
⁸ O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:
⁹ Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.
¹⁰ For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.
¹¹ Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins.
¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.
¹³ I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows,
¹⁴ Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Greatness of God's Power

1 People of all lands are exhorted to sing praises unto God, Psalm 66:1, 2;

Psalm 100:1

¹ Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 God will eventually bring His enemies into subjection by His power, Psalm 66:3, 4;

Psalm 65:5

⁵ By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; *who art* the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off *upon* the sea:

Psalm 18:44

⁴⁴ As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

Psalm 46:8

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

Isaiah 45:22-23

²² Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

²³ I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

3 God's power is universal and eternal, Psalm 66:5-7;

Exodus 14:21

²¹ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

Joshua 3:14-16

¹⁴ And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

¹⁵ And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

¹⁶ That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, *and* were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

II Fiery Trials for Purification

1 We are exhorted to bless and praise God, who holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved, Psalm 66:8, 9;

Psalm 120:1

¹ In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

2 The Lord purifies His people in the furnace of affliction, Psalm 66: 10-12;

Psalm 17:3

³ Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, *and* shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.

Isaiah 48:10

¹⁰ Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Zechariah 13:9

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold

¹⁵ I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah.

¹⁶ Come *and* hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

¹⁷ I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

¹⁹ But verily God hath heard *me*; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed *be* God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

III The Payment of Vows

1 David paid the vows he made when he was in trouble, Psalm 66:1315;

Psalm 116:14

¹⁴ I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.

Ecclesiastes 5:4

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

2 He told what God had done for him, Psalm 66:16, 17;

Psalm 34:11

¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

3 If we regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us, Psalm 66:18-20;

Job 27:9

⁹ Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?

Proverbs 15:29

²⁹ The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Isaiah 1:15

¹⁵ And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

John 9:31

³¹ Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

James 4:3

³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

NOTES:

Praise to the Lord

In this glorious Psalm, David recalled some of the great things the Lord had done for the people of the world. David's soul became exuberant, and he exhorted all nations to sing and give praise and honor and make a joyful noise unto God.

When we truly count our blessings — one by one — we, too, shall become so overwhelmed with God's love and mercies that we will want to cry aloud: "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD."

It is the genuine gratitude to God in the soul that makes singing such an inspiration. It was not with a mournful melody and harmony that David exhorted the people to sing, but, instead, he told them to "make a joyful noise unto the LORD." "Make his praise glorious." Then he gave a sublime prophetic statement of the coming Millennial Reign of Christ: "All the

earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name."

The Invitation

The Psalmist David, who, we can see, was also a prophet, became so carried away with the magnitude of God's works that he seemed to step out and send an invitation to everybody in the world to "come and see the works of God." This is the true spirit of the Gospel. God's call is to the "whosoever will." All we have to do is first to come, and then to "taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).

This reminds us of the woman of Samaria, who, when she had found the Messiah, ran back into town and said to her people: "Come, see . . . is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29).

And it also reminds us of the incident when Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. Nathanael could not believe that any good thing could come out of Nazareth, but Philip said, "Come and see" (John 1:46). Here, then, is the universal call of the Gospel: "Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men."

God's Wonderful Works

The Psalmist began to enumerate some of the things the Lord had done. He remembered the miracles that had been performed when the Children of Israel were led out of Egypt, and that the sea had been turned into dry land and the people went through on foot. This caused his soul to be overwhelmed with gratitude, and he exclaimed: "O bless, our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard."

If we would take more time to enumerate God's blessings to us, and remember that He brought us out of sin and delivered us from the bondage of the enemy, our own souls would be filled with more praises to God.

A Tried People

But amidst the exultations and praises to God, the Psalmist remembered that they were not always borne on eagles' wings high above all trouble and anguish. The Lord always proves His people. He has said that they are to be a tried people. God led the Children of Israel through the wilderness to humble them, to prove them, to know what was in their hearts. David says in this Psalm: "Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins." The Lord has ways of trying us that we would never dream of, and He may choose to allow a "strange thing" to come to any one of us. He let ambassadors come from Babylon to Hezekiah that He might try Hezekiah and "know all that was in his heart" (II Chronicles 32:31).

The Lord tries us to let us know what is in our own heart. He knows our condition. He knows our weaknesses. He knows our failures. One writer has aptly said: "To know thyself is a lesson which no man can learn but from the Spirit of God." And though our afflictions and trials may seem severe, at times, and we feel as if we could not bear another straw's weight, yet Paul refers to them as our "light" afflictions and tells us that they work out for *us* a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Israel bowed down heavily under the lash of the taskmasters of Egypt before they walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. They went through the furnace of affliction; and were tried, as silver is tried, before they saw the deliverance from God. The Lord lets us suffer until we go entirely through the refining fire. He knows what is best for us, and we believe and know that

we profit by each trial we go through.

When the Lord saw that it was enough, He brought Israel out into a wealthy place — the Land of Canaan. And when He sees that our trials and purgings are sufficient, He brings us out into a wealthy place of spiritual blessings.

The Payment of Our Vows

When the true children of God have gone through the furnace of affliction, and the Lord has brought them out, they feel humble, grateful; and, like David, they want to go into the house of God and pay the vows which their lips uttered when they were in trouble. They realize it is the Lord who has brought them out of their trouble, and with thankful hearts they give praise to His name, and are eager to give praise in the congregation of the righteous.

But many people soon forget their vows and all that God has done for them. They cry loudly for help when they are in distress, but after the Lord delivers them they soon forget Him and feel they are able to steer their own course. The Word of God says, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it" (Ecclesiastes 5:4). Severe penalties will come to us if we are neglectful in this. God demands that we pay Him what we promised when we were in trouble.

When they came with their praises and payments of their vows, the Israelites were also to bring their sacrifices — the best of the flock, with "incense of rams." Do we always remember to do that? "God loveth a cheerful giver"; and, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When a friend has done something very special for us, it is just natural for us to want to reward him in some way. When the Lord does much for us, it is a spontaneous act on our part to want to give Him something in return. We could never pay Him back for what He has done for us, for that is impossible. But a love offering seems to be appropriate. It may be several things. God wants our willing service, our devotion, our testimony, our means, and whatever He has blessed us with. He wants our all!

A Testimony

When David considered all the wonderful things that the Lord had done for Israel, he cried out for the people to "come and see." But after going to the house of God to pay his vows and offer his sacrifices, he cried out for the people to "come and hear." He wanted to declare to them what the Lord had done for his soul. What a testimony! He really wanted to give it! It, no doubt, was the same testimony that he gave when he said: "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5). He had paid his vows. He had brought his sacrifice to God. He had come to the house of God with praises. And, because of that, God blessed him.

The Barrier of Iniquity

After reading such a testimony we can readily see that David was clear and clean in his soul. He knew the Lord had heard his prayer. He also knew what was necessary to insure God's hearing his prayer. He said: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: but verily God hath heard me." This was also a further testimony as to the righteousness of David. There

was no iniquity in his heart. It was perfect toward God.

Sin separates from God. If we harbor sin we cannot be clear before God. Before a soul can be justified in God's sight, he must forsake sin. He must turn from it with all his heart, and tell God he is through with it. When he does that, his prayers go through to Heaven, and God looks down and pardons his sins. The Spirit will apply the Blood to wash away the guilt of sin and he stands clear and clean in God's sight. It is then that he, too, can sing aloud the praises of God and say, with David: "Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

This Psalm is in reality a grand thanksgiving hymn, and the theme of it is an admonition to sing, to rejoice, and to bless God. It is the song of every true Christian, every member of the household of faith, and every member of the true body of believers.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the theme of this Psalm?
- 2 Who did David want to sing it?
- 3 Why did David go to the house of God?
- 4 What did he do there?
- 5 Why does the Lord try His people?
- 6 When will the Lord not hear our prayers?