

Psalms 65:0 ¶ To the chief Musician, A Psalm and Song of David.

Another poetic song of David honoring the God of Israel.

Guzik: "We don't know the occasion of this Psalm, but because of its thankfulness and praise connected to flocks and grain many think it was composed for a harvest festival, perhaps the Feast of Tabernacles in the Fall."

Psalms 65:1 ¶ Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Psalms 65:2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

From the Hebrew for "waiteth," the word "trust" stands out to me. Our praise for God is a fruit of our trust in God, just as it was in Sion, a reference to the mountain of Jerusalem. David acknowledges God as the One that hears prayer—not just the prayers of those in Israel, but of all people throughout the world.

It is true that we as Christians have the privilege of knowing that our Father in heaven hears and answers our prayers—whether in the positive, the negative or wait a while. The truth is that God hears all prayers, but it is the cry of His children or of one seeking to know Him that spur Him to act on behalf of the suppliant.

Psalms 65:3 Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

The influence of one's sin nature is a powerful force; however, God is willing and able to purge or forgive our sins in His mercy.

Psalms 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

What a beautiful truth; every person that turns to God in faith and repentance is chosen or acceptable (from the Hebrew) to Him. He is not willing to turn anyone away. He is eager to draw us near to Him in relationship as part of His family. His desire is to dwell among us and bless us with the goodness associated with His presence.

James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

Many would like to take a verse like this and separate it from the rest of scripture; they posit that God has selected certain people to be saved and others to remain lost. That just doesn't fit with the rest of scripture. He is very clear in declaring that He is not willing that anyone should suffer eternal condemnation.

2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Ezekiel 18:32 *“For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”*

John 3:16–17 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

Psalms 65:5 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:

Psalms 65:6 ¶ Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:

Psalms 65:7 Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

David recognizes God as the source of his salvation. He has heard about and witnessed how God answers his prayers and the prayers of the people of Israel in amazing acts of righteous judgment. He again points out that God is willing to provide for all people on earth that place their trust in Him.

David praises God as the One that holds the mountains in place with His power and can still the waves of the sea or quiet the troubled multitudes. All He has to do is speak a word (as recorded in Mark) or will it to be.

Mark 4:39 *“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”*

Isaiah 14:24 *“The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand....”*

A very insightful comment from Spurgeon on verse 5: “We do not always know what we are asking for when we pray; when the answer comes, the veritable answer, it is possible that we may be terrified by it. We seek sanctification, and trial will be the reply: we ask for more faith, and more affliction is the result: we pray for the spread of the gospel, and persecution scatters us. Nevertheless, it is good to ask on, for nothing which the Lord grants in his love can do us any harm. Terrible things will turn out to be blessed things after all, where they come in answer to prayer.”

Psalms 65:8 They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

I like the wording of the NLT: *“Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy.”*

If you think about it, that describes every place on earth that witnesses the rising and setting of the sun.

I personally am enthralled with the wonderful masterpieces that God paints in the sky at so many sunrises and sunsets—and have countless numbers of pictures that witness to that truth.

Psalms 65:9 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which* is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

Psalms 65:10 Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

Psalms 65:11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

Psalms 65:12 They drop *upon* the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

Psalms 65:13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

David continues to recognize God as the source of all that gives us life. He supplies the water that is used to grow food and sustain life. It is God that blesses when the harvest is bountiful, when livestock are abundant and have plenty to eat. God's blessings give reason to shout and sing His praise.