

**Tuesday, August 30, 2022 ▫ Read Psalm 65:8–13**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Where do the people in v8a dwell? Of what are they afraid? Which signs in particular (v8b)? What are these “outgoings” doing? What does Yahweh visit, with what blessing, and what results in v9a,b,c? What does God do in v9d? Why (v9e)? Who is being described as doing what in v10? With what does God crown the year in v11a? And what drips with abundance in v11b? What does this dropping (v12a) make the little hills to do (v12b)? What two blessed things in v13a,b do what two things in v13c?*

**In what ways does the almighty and redeeming God of vv1–7, display His great goodness and our expected response?** Psalm 65:8–13 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in His care of creation, and use of it to provide for us, the Lord displays not only the exceeding abundance of His goodness, but a picture of how we should repeatedly and constantly rejoice over that goodness.**

Before the greatness of God’s almighty power, man would do well to consider that he is but dust. No wonder that those who dwell in the farthest parts of the earth are afraid of the sun and moon and stars and other comparatively glorious creations of God (v8a)!

But they are *creations of God*. As Psalm 19:4–6 so poignantly teaches, the sun’s apparent march through the sky is designed to teach us to rejoice in whatever God gives us to do (v8b). Are we not also creations of God? We too, ought to rejoice, though we are but dust.

For, God is a God Who is merciful even to dust! vv9–11 gush (literally!) with rich poetry about the generous, kind, skillful attention and provision that the Lord lavishes upon the dirt. And that’s not even dirt into which He breathed the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7) to form it into His image (cf. Gen 1:26–27). The year is not just crowned with creation’s produce, but with God’s goodness.

As we sing of the tender, abundant, detailed, persistent, lavish goodness of God to the inanimate dirt in these verses, a marvelous “how much more” argument should swell in our hearts. If His care of His creation is like this for other creatures, how much more it must be for us whom He made in His image!

So, we ought to respond like the little hills, pastures, and valleys (v12–13). He has made them beautiful, and He has made their produce in flock and grain to be the very picture of rejoicing. Every year, we should see springtime and harvest time as examples to us of how we should rejoice before God from our hearts. O, let us always see His goodness in the great acts of redemption, but let us not fail to see it also in every little care and provision for His creation!

What beauties of creation have you stopped to behold lately? What were they telling you about the Lord? How were they modeling for you to respond to the Lord? What is the greatest display that He has made of this generosity and care?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You have created all things, and they exist for Your glory. You are so good to all Your creatures! You visit the earth and water it richly and abundantly. You crown the year with Your goodness. As You have made us Your creations who receive the greatest goodness, so also make us the greatest rejoicers among all Your creatures as we shout for joy and sing Your praises, which we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP65B “The Far and Distant Peoples Fear” or TPH65C “Praise Waits for Thee in Zion”**

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Psalm 65 versus 8 through 13. These are God's words. They also who dwell in the farthest plate. Parts are afraid of your signs. You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. You visit the earth and water act. You greatly enrich it. The river of God is full of water.

You provide their grain for. So you have prepared it your water its ridges abundantly, you settle its furrows, you make it soft with showers. You bless its growth, you crown the year with your goodness and your paths. Drip with abundance, they drop on the pastures of the wilderness. And the little hills rejoice on every side.

Pastures are clothed with flocks. The valleys also are covered with grain, they shout for joy. They also sing so far the reading of God's inspired and inherent work.

Those who do not know the Lord, as a creator. Do not know how rightly to respond to the creation and one of the things that is a right way of responding to the creation. What many call nature around us is by observing that God wants us to rejoice, he has set his creation in order in such a way that it appears to function with joy reflecting something that comes out of.

It's creator because he is ever blessed in himself. And this is the something that belongs to the nature and character of God outside of all creation from all eternity. Raf doesn't Wrath properly is not an attribute of God. It is an expression of is holiness and justice. And his goodness that that which is evil.

He now hates and he burns upon it with all the brightness of his glory and holiness and justice, and because it is a thing hateful to God. And opposite of God, those things that are object of his wrath have been upon them, all of the intensity of the greatness of his glory.

So it's a great mercy when God takes sinners who deserve to have that and that would be all of us. That's what we deserve to have God's glory to burn, upon us in His infinite intensity as wrath forever and ever. But he takes sinners and he justifies them in Jesus Christ toned for our sin and Jesus Christ upon whom the brightness of the glory of God burned.

While Christ was conscious of bearing, all the sin of all His people for whom he was dying. His second Corinthians 5 said, God made him who knew no sin to be sin. And of course, the Lord Jesus in his perfect awareness and perfect consciousness of his father. And his father's glory, the Lord Jesus who rejoiced in his father's glory always.

Was perfectly conscious of the brightness and fury, intensity of God's glory burning against the sin that he bore on the cross. And for us, the Lord has granted not

to not to suffer the wrath that we deserve because Christ already has. But Christ's having a toned for us and restored, us Christ being our righteousness and now our new nature coming from the Lord Jesus himself.

He is preparing us. And when he has put away all our sin and made us, holy We will be happy in the presence and the immediate presence of all of the intensity of the glory of God forever and our happiness will know no bounds because the intensity of his glory knows no balance and how wonderful wonderful it will be.

So the fact that the creation exhibits something that looks like rejoicing is intentional. In fact, the verse 8 starts, They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of your signs of what signs are those? You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice And so we remember I hope from Psalm 19.

If I can.

Their line has gone out through all the earth their words to the end of the world. In them, he has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoicing, like a strong man to run its race. It's rising is from the end of heaven, at circuit, to the other end, and so forth.

Remember when God created the sun and the moon and the stars, and he put them in the sky to govern to regulate, to signs of days and months and seasons and years. And then in James chapter 1, when it says, every good and every perfect gift comes down, not from the father of light singular, but from the father of lights.

Plural. Let's talking about the derivative light got himself, of course as light and in him is no darkness at all. First John chapter 1 tells us and so he created light as an expression of something about himself and then he created lights, plural that he put in the sky day and night to show.

That even the night doesn't cause the slightest little blip in the continual goodness of God to us. And so Psalm 19 talks about the sun coming out like a bridegroom from his chambers. It's on his wedding day. He's on his way to Father-in-law's house or soon to be father-in-law's house or wherever it is that the festivities are going to get started for his wedding day and you can see the joy and diligence with which he runs God makes the sun to appear to be jostling rejoicing.

Now, those who don't believe in God, those who don't know, God. They thought the sun and the moon were Gods but not God's like the one true, God angry Gods, who would hurt them. And indeed, the the sun can hurt, can't attic and hurt your eyes. And there are those who it can burn and and it's heat can can hurt a lot, but the things that others are afraid of believers.

Aren't afraid of Psalm 121. The sun shall not smite you by day nor the moon by night, these things that everyone else. As afraid of they belong, they belong to the Lord. And so, those who dwell in the farthest parts, first half first, eight are afraid of your signs but the one who knows.

The Lord says you make the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. And that's the first, the first of three rejoicings here that the creation teaches us the the the outgoings of morning and evening rejoice. And then down in verse 12, little hills rejoice. And then that verse 13, the pastors and the valleys shout for joy and sing.

The Lord intends us to see in His creation. A design that reminds us of how good he is, and how his creatures ought to respond to his goodness. Now if the Sun and the moon are marvelously maintained by God and if the dirt you visit the earth and water it in verses 9 through 11, there is this there is this amazing rich poetry of God's goodness to dirt.

You visit the earth and water. You greatly enrich it. The river of God is full of water. And so, we are not accustomed to rivers that are not full of water, but they have creeks in in Israel that are called in the hall in Hebrew or Wadi in Arabic that dry up for most of the year and there's a rainy season when they finally have water in them.

And and then the ground is not dead and cracked and dry. But everything comes to life and it describes God as the one who is giving life to the earth You provide their grain for cellular prepared it, you water its ridges. Abundantly, you set all its furrows, you make it soft with showers.

You bless its growth. And then this climax, you crown the year with your goodness, your paths drift with abundance. The drop on the pastures of the wilderness and so forth. So God is good.

So God is good. Even to dirt, there's a good thing for us because that's what we are. But we're not just the regular dirt that he's so abundantly good to already. We are breathing dirt in which we breathed into it, the breath of life and he made us in his own image.

And so, the little hills that are made out of this dirt, they rejoice on every side. So, the Sun Moon, and stars rejoice, the little hills rejoice and the Lord, makes the the hills and pastures to flourish. The pastors are covered with flocks. The value is also our cover close.

Sorry, clothes with flocks. The valley is also are covered with grain, they shout for joy. They also sing, you know, and I are to look at this world and observe how God has made it and see His goodness in it and His goodness to it. And even to observe how he has made the creatures to present to us a beautiful picture of rejoicing, the rejoicing, dawn and sunrise.

In the morning, the rejoicing sunset and all its beauty in the evening. The rejoicing stars and all their brilliance and beauty and wonder at night. We love to watch nature videos and which there are birds and little animals and powerful animals, and other things like that, as the whole creation displays to us a picture of rejoicing, but none of those things were made in his image.

He's been more good to us. Infinitely more and to any of those things, what? We not to be infinitely more joyful than even the picture that he's given us. And those things, the Lord help you to know His goodness from the heart and rejoice in it always. But then also to make good use of whatever you see in his creation as you study and you learn things.

And don't do it heartlessly. Yes, you use your head, memorize content for your exams and so forth. But remember that the beauty of everything that he's made reminds us of the how much more argument that he made his creation to glorify him and to even be a picture of rejoicing.

So that we who have been made in his image to whom, he has shown this redeeming and adopting goodness. Now in Christ that we should rejoice all the more, let's pray.

Our Father in heaven. We pray that you would bless this portion of your words to us that the rejoicing that you make us to do in yourself, would condition our hearts to live, trust in you responding to you with rejoicing in, you always and peace. That passes all understanding and that you would make us then to respond

out of love and obedience and trust and every situation that you would put away, all anxiety, and bitterness and fear, help us Lord.

We pray even to learn from your creation. We thank you for giving us that additional help that it's not just your word but even your world that causes us to rejoice. And so give us eyes to see it in the way that your word has instructed us to see it.

We ask in Jesus name, Amen.