

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022 • Read Psalm 66**

Questions from the Scripture text: Into whose hands was this Psalm committed (superscript)? How does the Psalm describe itself? What is the first command (v1)? What kind of shout? To Whom? By whom (cf. v4, 8)? What is the command in v2a? What should be sung out? What are they to make glorious (v2b)? To Whom are they to speak (v3a)? What are they to say (v3b)? What specific work has demonstrated this (v3c-d)? Who will do what three things in v4? What does v5a command/invite them to do in the midst of this praise? Toward whom have these works been aimed (v5b)? What event is an example of this (v6a-b)? What will we do when we "visit" such events in song (v6c)? What does God do (v7a)? By what? For how long? What does He do (v7b)? As He does this, what do His people pray and sing against (v7c)? Who are to do what in v8a? Whose God is He? At what are they to aim as they praise (v8b)? For what work of God (v9a)? And what other (v9b)? And what other (v10)? How did He test and refine them (v11-12)? Through this, into what did He bring them out (v12c)? Who will go where in v13a? With what? To do what (v13b)? When did the worshiper vow to do this (v14)? What offerings (v15a)? With what effects (v15b)? Of what cost/amount (v15c)? What two things does this worshiper want others to do (v16a)? Which others? What will the worshiper do (v16b)? What had the worshiper done with his mouth (v17a)? And what with his tongue (v17b)? What mustn't the worshiper's relation to iniquity be (v18a)? Why not (v18b)? But has v18b happened (v19a)? What happened instead (v19a-b)? How does the worshiper respond (v20a)? To what specifically in v20b? And what else (v20c)?

**How should believers respond to deliverance?** Psalm 66 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when a believer realizes that his deliverance from trouble is fruit of deliverance from sin and part of God's mighty, redemptive work of a multitude from all the nations, he wishes for all the redeemed to join him in praising God in public worship.**

It's not until v14 that we learn the occasion for the Psalm. The worshiper had been in trouble, and as he cried for help with his mouth (v17a), his lips uttered a vow to offer sacrifices in public worship (v14a), and his tongue extolled (praised) God (v17b). This imagery—mouth, lips, tongue—brings us into the moment. The theology of the Psalm declares to us what the Holy Spirit taught him by/about this moment.

**God is eliminating rebellion.** Yes, the Lord is humbling rebels (v7c) and subduing enemies (v3d). But, He sometimes does so by changing enemies into servants. The Psalmist the Lord's work in his own life (v18-19) as something that He has done for His people as a whole (v10-12). The Psalmist grows in assurance, because though he has remaining sin, he is not its friend (v18a) but its enemy. And the Lord, who has made this change in him listens to his voice (v19). The Psalmist knows that God tests His people by suffering (v10a, 11a-12b) in order to refine them (v10b) and bring them out into abundance (v12c).

**God is provoking praise.** The beginning of the Psalm has the worshiper urging all the earth (v1, 4, cp. "you peoples" in v8) to praise God. That's the final and eternal installment of something that had its preview in Israel's Exodus (v5-6). But notice v6c: when we remember/sing the Lord's doing this, it's as if we are right there rejoicing in Him. The believer wants all who fear God (v16a) to praise Him for the good done to one soul (v16b). How much more, when we come to praise Him for the good done to a multitude of souls. Looking forward to that praise is how the Psalm opens in v1-2, urging us all to praise that is glad ("joyful"), intense ("shout"), and weighty ("honor"/"glorious").

After the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ, we mayn't bring many, expensive animal sacrifices. Instead, we offer to God *spiritual* sacrifice, Christ's-blood-bought souls lifted up in prayer and praise and submission. Let us vow to give Him such, in the midst of the assembly, with joy, intensity, and gravitas!

What trouble has the Lord brought you into/through recently? What is His purpose in His work in you? What response does He want from you? In what circumstance, especially, should you give it?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You have tested and refined us and shown Your work in us. How awesome are Your works toward the sons of men, whom You convert from rebels to worshipers. You have heard our prayers; now receive our praise. And grant that by Your Spirit, our praise would be joyful, intense, and weighty, which we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP66B "O All You Peoples, Bless Our God" or TPH66B "Come, All Ye People, Bless Our God"**

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Psalm 66. These are the words of God to the chief musician. A song. A psalm make a joyful shout to God. All the earth sing out the honor of his name. Make us. Praise glorious. Say to God how awesome are your works through the greatness of your power, your enemies shall submit themselves to you all the earth shall worship.

You and sing praises to you. They shall sing praises to your name come and see the works of God. He is awesome in his doing towards the sons of men, he turned the sea into dry land. They went through the river on foot There. We will rejoice in him.

He rules by his power forever. His eyes observed, the nations Do not. Let the rebellious exalt themselves. Oh, bless our God. You people and make the voice of his praise to be heard who keeps our soul among the living and does not allow our feet to be moved for you.

O. God have tested us. You have revive for a find us a silver. Is refined you brought us into the net? You laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads. We went through fire and through water, but you brought us out to rich fulfillment.

I will go into your house with burnt offerings, I will pay my vows which my lips. I've uttered and my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble, I will offer you burnt sacrifices, a fat animals with sweet aroma of Rams. I will offer bulls with goats calm and hear all you.

Who fear God and I will declare what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart,

the Lord will not hear but certainly God has heard. He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed begeth who has not turned away. My prayer nor his mercy from me. So far, the reading of God's inspired and inerrant word. We really don't find out until verse 14. What was the occasion for the Psalm? It's not given in the superscript, just says to the chief musician or the choir master.

So this is a song for public worship, which makes sense since the content of the song demands and calls and commands and urges public worship, but it just says to the chief musician, a song. The Psalm we find out the occasion and verse 14. Well, verse 13 and verse 14.

But in verse 14, we find out that he was in trouble and that when he was in trouble, he made a vow to the Lord which we hear about in verse 13, that he would come to the Lord's house with burnt offerings. Now, Although he may not be in trouble for his sin or he might be, it doesn't tell us exactly what kind of trouble.

He does know that his sin is a bigger trouble because from the trouble, he's in the only help is God. But God does not regard the prayer of those. He does not hear the prayer of those who regard iniquity in their heart verse 18. And so he knows himself to be a sinner and he knows that he has sin.

And there's this question of whether he is still dead and his trespasses in which he regards and in his heart. So, that would be Sophia like a child, who wishes she could get away with sin. And she thinks sin is her friend. And so if nobody is looking, or she thinks that nobody is looking, then she, she does the sin then, because she's regarding the sin in her heart.

But this the psalmist and the believer doesn't regard this in his heart. He hates the sin from his heart. Yes, he has sin. Yes, he knows that he still has these desires and impulses and he hates them, and he wants to kill them. God is his friend and sin is his enemy.

And so, he likes to remember that God always sees him because that remembering that God always sees him helps him fight against His enemy, the sin, and his art, and the sin in his life. But it's hard to tell. It's hard to tell if we really are that way.

Or we're just trying to convince ourselves that way if someone doesn't have new life but knows that he needs to have new life in order to believe in Jesus and be justified. Then, one of the things that he wants to do is to convince himself that he has it.

And the more right reading of the Bible, and the more right hearing of the Bible that they have the easier, it is to convince themselves. Mentally. And so for the psalmist getting into the trouble and crying out to God, to be His help was actually one of the ways that God showed him, that his cry to God.

Came from the same place as His being against his sin. And when God answered his prayer, he discovered that he really was truly against his sin. And not just self deceived and thinking he was against his sin. You see that in verses 18 and 19. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear but certainly God has heard.

He has attended the voice of my prayer and so he realizes that yes, though. He's still a sinner. Yes though. He's still gets into trouble. He is a forgiven sinner. He is a sinner whose prayers are heard and that's why he's so excited that when he prayed this prayer and he vowed to the Lord that if the Lord delivers him from this trouble, he's going to come to the house with burnt offerings, not burnt offerings, because the offerings can take away the sin.

But because God, who gave the offerings, gave them to show us that He takes away sin. So this may have been a thousand years before Jesus. It doesn't tell us. If David wrote it, I don't remember if it's quoted in the New Testament is being by David. It's usually a good default but this might have been a thousand years before Jesus.

And certainly at least several hundred years before Jesus. But what is the man? Hoping in, if he's hoping and God who will take away his sin and who has given these sacrifices to show that God is the one who takes away sin by providing the substitute, providing someone else to bear the fire of God's wrath.

By providing someone whose blood will be shed in his place to atone for him in consecrate, He's hoping in Jesus, isn't he? And so, he is excited to come and worship and ought make his offering and express his trust in and rejoicing over the Lord, Jesus Christ, and the Lord, Jesus Christ, saving him, but it doesn't just want to do it by himself.

The Lord has regarded his soul. And so he says, calm and here, all you who fear God and I will declare what He has done for my soul. What he's saying? This is my case when the Lord delivered me out of trouble and he even used the trouble to to boost and strengthen my assurance of faith, it's just the latest incident in a long line of God's mercy and God's faithfulness to all of his people.

And every individual should rejoice over all that God does for all of his people and all of his people should rejoice over all that. God does for every individual. And so when he realizes how God has been dealing with him in his life he says oh this is just like the God who brought Israel into affliction and note you O God have tested us.

You have refined us. A silver is refined. You brought us into the net. You lay affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads. We went through fire and through water, but you brought us out to rich fulfillment. If you go back a little further he is come and see the works of God.

He is awesome in his doing toward the sons of men and what is exhibit, a for the works of God that are so awesome. Towards the Sun, he turned the sea and too dry land. They went through the river on foot there. We will rejoice in him. And so he says I remember the Exodus when God saved his people miraculously.

And I remember that he did that after bringing them through affliction and we don't even know if it's the Egypt affliction that is in mind in verses 8 through 12. Because there were so many times that the Lord did this, and so he's not praising God, that he's that his people have never been in trouble and he himself.

Of course, is just come out of trouble. He's praising God for his good designs and sovereign rule over all the troubles as people ever go through.

And so when John Nisbet has been brutally tortured and he's a blessing. God for bringing him, by the way of that torture to the doorstep of heaven. And his friends are telling him. Don't forget who actually did that to you. Elizabeth knows there are second causes, But he's not thinking about dragons, and he's not thinking about the throne and he's not thinking about the bishop.

And he's not thinking about the magistrates, he's thinking about God, who rules and overrules. And all of these afflictions you brought us into the net. You laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men right over our heads. We went through fire and through water. Oh, to have a biblical enough, a big enough view of God that we can credit His wise and good providence.

Even in the hardest of afflictions and not only does the psalmist's individual recent experience caused him to want to worship God over what God has just done

in his life and what God has done throughout history in his peoples life. He wants to invite, not just Israel, but all the earth.

All the nations who will come to faith In Jesus Christ. Make a joyful. Shout to God. All the earth, verse 1 and verse 4. All the earth shall worship. You and verse 8. O bless our God. You people's? And so this all the earth is not just all the land of Israel.

It's people who come to faith in the Lord. Jesus, who people who belong to the Triune God through faith in the Lord Jesus, Knowing that the history of his goodness to Israel is the same as his history of his goodness. To each of them individually is the same as the history of His goodness, to his people, from all the nations, whom he had chosen before, the foundation of the world in Christ.

And for whom Christ, went to the cross and atoned for every one of them. And exactly then and to whom the Holy Spirit is still finishing. The work of applying the redemption of Christ to every one of them. And so, this is what we come to worship God for even in a week when we haven't had trouble.

One of the great things that we worship. God for is has awesome. Works throughout history and bringing his people to himself through trouble and showing them their sin, and showing them, his atonement for sin, and his mercy to them and often. And I think if we paid good attention, we would come every week.

Realizing that about the week that we had just come out of and looking forward to the day when the number of the redeemed will be completed and when the sanctification of that number will be completed and we'll be glorious and worshiping God in glory. Make a joyful shout to God.

All the earth sing out the honor of his name. And so his worship is to be glad joyful and it is to be intense shout and it is to be weighty honor and beautiful and give song. Make us praise glorious. It's actually the same word there as honor, way to you again.

And so one of the reasons why we come and we want to worship joyously and worship intensely and worship way, totally and worship. Excellently is because this got of Psalm. 66 is our God and we want to worship him not just by ourselves. We want to worship him through Christ and we want all who are his to worship Him.

Many places including this one in many other places in his work where God prioritizes public worship over private. So store up your worshipings of God those things. He brings you through throughout the week and blesses those things. He brings you through throughout the weekend bless his name and be eager that you would come in the public worship to do that with a entire congregation of people who are all doing the same and not just doing the same over each one.

Each individual once experience of God that we could, that has been according to God's Word, but truly gathered together, worshipping him over what he has done for his people throughout history so far, and what he will have done, when he has gathered his innumerable, multitude of the redeemed, from all the nations, let's pray.

Father, we thank you for this portion of your word and it's reminder to us and it's help for us even in the midst of where we find ourselves today. Oh Lord, help us. See that you always afflict us in mercy, help us to hate sin from our hearts. And we pray that we would hear and observe you answering prayers that we might be reminded that you who are the one who gives us the disregard and opposition to sin in the heart.

And you are the one who you who gave that to us, are the one who listens to us when we pray and who rules over all things and who answers our prayers. So help us. Father, we ask by the work of your spirit in our hearts stirring up, our faith in Jesus, and his name.

We ask it. Amen.