

Psalm 66

This Psalm is prophetic of the worship and praise that shall be rendered to God when the Lord Jesus Christ rules and reigns over all the earth. It is only when the Son of God is recognized by, received by, and reigning over men, women, boys, and girls, that they truly worship and praise God as they ought.

Vs. 1 – “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands [all the earth].” Here and there throughout the earth this is currently taking place, wheresoever God has caused the name of Jesus to be known by faith, and the churches of God gather and worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Prayer and praise is offered up by the saints in every place throughout the world where God has called out people unto Himself. It is not universal among men; but wheresoever His churches be throughout the world, there is He worshipped in Spirit and in truth. **I Pet. 2:5 Heb. 13:15**

“Make a joyful noise unto God.” All our “noises” are not always joyful. We have the sighs of pain, the cries of sorrow, the groanings of heaviness and grief; and these may all be shared with our God, to be sure. But let us not leave off this noise, **“a joyful noise unto God,”** for in everything He is to be blessed, and His works are truly the source of all true, lasting, substantial, and spiritual joy! *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice,” (Phil. 4:4).* It is inappropriate and unfit for those who know the God of salvation and life, the Creator and Redeemer of men, in truth, and have tasted that He is gracious, and have been bathed in His immeasurable love, and have swam in His abounding mercies, to neglect the rendering of joyful praise to Him! Yes, there are seasons of woe and grief. How could there not be, when all about is and even in us is sin, continually and increasingly! And yet, our Savior who cannot lie, said, *“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full,” (John 15:11); and, “Your joy no man taketh from you,” (John 16:22); and, “Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full,” (John 16:24); and, again, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,” (John 16:33).* He prayed the Father, *“And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves,” (John 17:13).* **I Pet. 1:3-9**

So there is much reason for this **“joyful noise”** on the part of every child of God. And it is appropriate that the house of God should ring with the joyful singing of the blood-bought, blood-washed, Spirit-sealed, Spirit-filled people of God, in every part of the habitable world where God has placed one of His churches as a lampstand to hold forth the wonderful Word of Life as a testimony and witness to the nations of Jesus Christ and His saving power and grace.

“All ye lands.” Yes, the day is coming in which our Lord Jesus Christ shall sit upon the throne of His father David, ruling and reigning over the whole earth, and all nations shall be subject unto Him, and shall render due honor and worship to Him as Sovereign Lord of all the earth. *“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever,” (Rev. 11:15).* Obviously, this is not the current state of affairs; but praise be to God, it one day shall be: and we can rejoice today that it will be one day, in God’s appointed time! And yet at this present time in **“all ye lands,”** or “all the earth,” as it may also be rendered, wheresoever there is a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led congregation (i.e. church) of the Lord Jesus Christ, where there are those whom God has called out for a people of His own and bathed them from all their filthiness of sin in the blood of Jesus through faith, and caused them to put on Christ in scriptural baptism, and caused them to be united as one of His local churches according to the pattern of scripture, His promise of perpetuity until the Lord comes, and the mighty working of His Spirit, there may He be

worshipped in Spirit and truth according to the scriptures; and there may *“a joyful noise”* ascend up from earth to heaven, and be pleasing in His ears, acceptable to Him through the well-pleasing atoning and High Priestly office work of His Son Jesus Christ. So, while this Psalm may look forward to coming millennial days, and even eternal days, may it not also exhort us to be more and more missionary (according to the scripture teaching of missions, and not some brain-fevered stupidity of man’s inventions and depraved imaginations) in our own day? Is it not wonderful that the same God is worshipped, adored, praised, and honored with joyful expressions of thanksgiving, praise, and love in the various nations and with the various languages by the various tribes and kindreds of the earth, all because of the wonderful work of our Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary, which work continues to be effectual in ransoming and redeeming sinners unto God, wheresoever the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached in its uncorruptness and truth, accompanied by the Holy Spirit’s convincing and converting mighty working?

Vs. 2 – “Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.” The truth makes men to know the true God in truth, and it is Him that they honor and praise. At this present time, there are “church services” and “preaching” that honors the names of men, and makes their praise glorious. While it grieves the hearts of saints when such occurs, it should not surprise us, because we know that in this present hour, *“all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s,”* (Phil. 2:21); and that there are many who have crept in who are of that sort *“who loveth to have the preeminence among them,”* (III John :9). It shall not always be so, thanks be unto God! The hypocrite sings and prays now, in outward appearance much like the true saint and worshipper of God; the false preacher and teacher declares his (or her) “message”, seemingly no different to many than, or even more appealing and pleasing than, the true messenger of the gospel. God knows the difference, and one day He will plainly set forth and show the difference and that He has made a difference between the true worshipper and follower of His Word, and the pretender.

Singing is a commandment. **Col. 3:16** At any time we may sing, if we have a merry heart. **James 5:13** The congregational singing of the Lord’s churches is not only appropriate, but also commanded. And what should our singing do? Declare *“the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.”* The purpose of singing is not for the pleasing of the ears of people, to draw in a crowd, to give someone who has musical talent something to do, nor merely for the personal expression and showing off of someone’s gifts, talents, and abilities. The purpose of God’s people singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is to render thanks, praise, honor, and glory to God. We are celebrating the wonderful works of God, and giving Him praise for what He has done! We are also telling out, or telling forth, (or prophesying, I daresay,) the works and words of God! If a person can’t learn the gospel and Bible doctrine from the songs we sing, as much as from any Bible lesson or sermon, then we shouldn’t be singing such songs at all. How can you be *“teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,”* if those songs are not songs of Bible-taught truth? The subject of our singing is to be God and His wonderful works, particularly His wonderful works of salvation, redemption, sanctification, and coming glorification in Christ Jesus!

Vs. 3 – “Say unto God” Ah, here is a key that opens a door of truth! Our singing is *“unto God.”* *“Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* *“Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”* (Eph. 5:19). Yes, others hear us, but our worship is directed toward Him whom we worship. It is not done merely or mainly for people’s benefit or enjoyment, but for God’s praise. Yes, people ought to benefit, because by our outward expression of the inward grace of God which we have received, they ought to see and hear the truth expressed, the truth by which they might come to know God in truth for themselves, and be saved. But if the direction of our worship becomes earth-ward and man-ward instead of God-ward, then

we will have gone astray from the right way, and we will neither bless God or men. "Our praises should be directed to God: 'Say unto God.' Our hymns should be a form of speaking unto the Most High, and an ascription unto him of his own glory." (Spurgeon, C. H.)

"Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee." The mighty works of God inspire reverential awe and fear! They are wondrous works, unlike that which any other can do, even though Satan and his ministers seek to imitate and counterfeit them, in order to lead people astray, and harden hearts against the truth.

What are some of these mighty, awe-inspiring, fear-inducing works of God? Some of them from ages past are mentioned in this very Psalm, as His delivering of Israel at the Red Sea. We find others of them recounted in the scriptures. Shall He not judge the great whore who defiles the earth with her spiritual fornications, causing men to worship than which is not God, and sheds the blood of His witnesses and saints? Shall He not put down all other authority and power except His own? Shall He not overthrow the tempter and deceiver of this world, and the accuser of the brethren, the devil? Shall He not wipe away all tears from His people's eyes, and cause there to be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain, and make them to live in His very presence, where they shall see His face, and walk in His light always? Can we not praise Him for what He has done, and what He shall yet do, seeing that with God what He has spoken shall as surely come to pass as though it was already done from ages past, and is as certain and sure as though it had already been performed? And is it not a great and mighty work of His that has loosed us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death, and translated us out of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son?

"Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee." They would have never otherwise done so, we can truly attest, knowing that it was in the day of His power that we were made willing to own Him as Lord and God. **Isa. 45:22-24 Phil. 2:9-11 Rom. 14:11 Rev. 19:11-16** Today His enemies may be reconciled to Him through faith in and willing submission to His Son Jesus Christ, whereby their sins shall be forgiven. In the coming day, though they have not repented, they will submit by force, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. "It will be a forced, and not a free, confession and submission; Christ's enemies, whether they will or not, will be obliged to own that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Gill, John.) **Ps. 2:10-12** *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences,"* (II Cor. 5:11).

Vs. 4 – "All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee: they shall sing to thy name." With what exultation and jubilation must the Psalmist have written these words, looking forward to that day when the true worship and singing of praise to God will fill the earth! How appropriate to sing with joy and gladness in our hearts now, knowing that the day is coming when *"the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea,"* (Isa. 11:9), and, *"we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness,"* (II Pet. 3:13)! "This universal worship, that will be yielded him, will be in the latter day; which shows that this psalm respects those times, when Christ shall be King over all the earth, and his name, worship, and religion, one." (Gill, John.) **Zech. 14:9 Rev. 15:4**

"Selah." Much pause should be taken and consideration given to this great and glorious truth. How it ought to shape our lives, our thoughts, words, and conduct! **II Pet. 3:11-18** "Here is a little pause for the lifting up of the heart and of the strait and well there may be, for what a joyful thing it is to think of all the earth worshipping God, and singing unto him! I know of no topic that is more calculated to excite

the admiring gratitude of God's servants than the prospect of the universal supremacy of one God and of his Christ." (Spurgeon, C. H.)

At this present hour, the kingdom of our God and of His Christ is pressing its claims upon all people. *"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matt. 4:17)*, is yet the message that His faithful churches and servants are to faithfully report and publish. *"Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand," (Rev. 22:10)*. If you refuse to worship Him now, there will be no place on earth for you, because in the coming day, and for all eternity, He will be worshipped with loving and grateful praise by all in earth and heaven, in united and harmonious shouting and singing, from hearts renewed by His gracious Spirit. Will you be in that company of whom it shall be said, *"There was found no place for them ... and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire," (Rev. 20:11,15)?*

"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Rev. 22:20,21).