

Psalm 65

“The God of Abundance”

God is a big God who does things in a big way. When He blesses His people, He does so abundantly. While we may not always be aware of the magnitude of God’s blessings in our lives, we can learn to better appreciate all the ways in which He meets our needs. Psalm 65, attributed to David as a “psalm” and “song” written for the priestly music director, highlights the abundant blessings of God. God excels at meeting our deepest needs. He reveals His abundance through His presence, His power, and His provision.

God reveals His abundance through His atoning presence (65:1-4).

While we tend to think about our greatest needs as being material in nature, in reality our greatest need is for a living relationship with God. God, through His atoning work, has reached out to restore us to an eternal relationship with Him.

It’s appropriate for God’s people to praise God and fulfill their vows to Him (65:1).

David launches into this psalm by saying, “To you praise is proper, Oh God.” It’s appropriate to praise God—He deserves our worship. The epicenter of worship for ancient Israel was Zion, or Jerusalem. The epicenter of worship today is the hearts of God’s people. God deserves the praises of our hearts. One way in which we praise God is by keeping our promises to Him—by fulfilling our vows. We often make promises to God in an attempt to win His blessings. Keeping those promises is an essential matter of faith.

Because God answers prayer, people are drawn to Him (65:2).

God answers prayer—no minor truth in the life of a believer. God actually listens to us when we pray and responds to our needs. Because God answers prayer, “all flesh” comes to Him. Everyone prays at one time or another, usually when life becomes difficult and we have no other place to turn. We somehow know that God will listen. The fact that God answers prayer draws us to Him. In fact, God may allow hardships in our lives in order to point us back to a relationship with Him.

Our sins overpower us, but God atones for our transgressions (65:3).

Sin, of course, separates us from a relationship with God. Our sins actually overpower us (literally, “are mightier than I”). We can’t conquer sin on our own, nor can we reverse its

consequences. Only God can offer the real remedy for sin. He “atones” for our sins. To atone means to provide a covering, to put sin out of His sight. Ultimately, atonement comes through the sacrificial death of Jesus. His death not only covers sin—it washes our sins away. We can now have a right relationship with God through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

Those who live close to God receive the blessings of His presence (65:4).

By providing atonement for our sins, God now draws us close to Him. David expresses this idea in terms of those whom God chooses. God initiates a relationship with fallen people. He draws us near to Him. He wants us to live in His courts, in His very presence. The “goodness” of His “house,” His “holy temple,” is the inheritance of His people. Because God draws us into His presence through His atoning work, we enjoy His abundant care.

**God reveals His abundance
through His righteous power (65:5-8).**

In addition to His presence, God reveals His abundance through His power. God is more than capable of meeting our needs.

God is our Savior who answers our prayers with His righteous and awesome power (6:5).

David welds together the terms “awesome” and “righteousness” in describing the way in which God our Savior answers our prayers. Because He is a God of abundance, He answers our prayers in awe-inspiring ways. Because He’s a just God, He answers our prayers in accordance with His righteousness. Because He is our Savior, God is also our provider. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” Because God answers our prayers so abundantly, He is the hope of the world—the hope of “all the ends of the earth and of the far off seas.” We have hope because God is powerful, and by His power He saves us and answers our prayers.

God formed the mountains, stills the seas, and controls the nations by His sovereign power (6:6-7).

The power of God is evident in creation. God established the mountains by His power. He girds Himself with strength. He stills the roaring of the seas, “the roar of their waves.” We’re reminded of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. God has power over His creation. His power extends to His control over the nations as well. In His sovereignty, God stills the tumult of the people who populate this world. Without His restraining hand, the nations

would be even more destructive than they are today. God wields sovereign control over creation and over the people of the earth.

God evokes fear and elicits joy in those who live far away by His wonderful power (6:8).

The nations are under God's sovereign power. Therefore, though they may live far away from the epicenter of God's presence (Jerusalem), they still fear God's wonders. From the east to the west (literally, from the outgoing of the morning and the evening) God makes the inhabitants of the earth rejoice. He provides for the needs of those who know Him and even those who don't. Yet, all rejoice over God's powerful providence and provision.

**God reveals His abundance
through His overflowing provision (65:9-13).**

God reveals His abundance through His presence among His people, through His power within His creation, and through His provision of water, food, and blessings.

God provides abundant rain that waters the crops (65:9-10).

God takes care of His creation and His people. He sends abundant (overflowing) water, enriching the ground and making it productive. The "river of God" is full of water. The water feeds the fields and produces grain just as God has prepared it to do. God fills the furrows of the field with water and saturates the ridges of the plowed fields with showers, making the ground soft so that plants can sprout and grow. This provision of water that produces crops is the work of God, a demonstration of His ongoing blessing for His people.

God provides abundant crops and flocks that shout and sing for joy (65:11-13).

David goes on to say, "You crown the year with your goodness." The annual harvest is marked by the goodness and abundance of God. "Your tracks drop with fatness," that is to say, the tracks made by a cart have dug deep into the ground because of the abundance God's provision. The grasslands, the hills, the meadows, and the valleys all see the abundant blessing of God. They "drip" with abundance, they "gird themselves with joy," they are "filled" with flocks, and they are "covered" with grain. Because of God's abundant blessing these all "shout for joy and sing!" God's provisions are abundant. Even in times of leanness we can recognize the abundant blessings of God—His presence, His power, and His provision. God excels at meeting our deepest needs.