

Arise O LORD
Psalm 68:1-35
Halifax: December 30, 2007

Introduction:

For several months now, I have been preaching through Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

- Last week, we completed chapter 2.
- This chapter ends on the high note of God making His people into a house for Himself!
 - a temple, a holy place for Him to dwell!
- This is such a remarkable thing when you understand (and accept) what God is like.
 - The Bible tells us that He so holy that no human being, sinful as we are, can come before Him and live...
 - In His holy presence, whatever is not holy is immediately engulfed in the flames of His holy wrath.
 - As a pure and holy being, it is His glory to utterly detest all that is sinful and unclean.
 - That means that if He were to fully and openly reveal Himself to us in our fallen condition,
 - we would be engulfed in judgment—
 - Because of our sin, we are detestable in His sight.
- And yet, this same God, in His unfathomable grace,
 - purposed that He would build a house for Himself to dwell in forever and ever,
 - and that He would build this house out of sinful human beings!
 - It is unfathomable!
 - He actually takes sinful human beings from all the nations of the world and makes them into the naos—the holy of holies—where His glory dwells!
 - It means that He has to take them, to redeem them, to justify them, and radically transform them by His grace so that they may be fit to be brought into His house...
- It is such a remarkable plan!
 - The very materials out of which He makes His sanctuary are those who are, apart from His redeeming grace, fit only to be tormented by the fire of His holy indignation!

- Christian, you are redeemed to be His house, to be His very own sons and daughters who are forever privileged to gaze upon the beauty and majesty of God your Father,
 - and to receive from Him the guidance and gifts and strength that you need to live gloriously as His sons in perfect love!
 - It is a thing too glorious to fully describe!

And as we move in chapter 3, we will find Paul delighting in the privilege he has as a minister to make known the glorious riches of God's grace to the nations!

- It was his unspeakable privilege to declare what God was doing in gathering in the nations to be His own house...
 - And when we get to chapter 4,
 - We will see that he speaks about how Christ sends out His ministers to unite all His elect together as one...
 - transforming us by His grace and Spirit to live together as brothers and sisters before our heavenly Father in perfect unity!
 - And he will begin to instruct us about how we are to live new lives as His children...
 - there is so much for us to look at!

But as we are now ready to move into these chapters,

- I wanted to find a Psalm that we could sing that would relate to them.
 - And I have chosen Psalm 68.
 - It is a very long Psalm, and we won't sing the whole thing each week, but we will sing from various parts of it each week that relate to whatever we are studying in Ephesians 3 and 4.
 - I selected this Psalm, in part, because Paul quotes from it in Ephesians 4:8 where He speaks about Christ's ascension to God's right hand—
 - and how from this seat of glory and rule, He carries out His glorious work of gathering in and establishing His Church as one under God.
 - I debated in my mind about how to present this rich Psalm to you—
 - I considered taking several weeks on it...
 - either by taking several weeks in succession to preach a series on it...
 - or by preaching one section this week—then a few weeks later taking up another...
 - But I decided that it would be better to look at the whole Psalm at once...
 - Obviously, my goal will not be to cover all the details...

- Rather I will be presenting the Psalm to you in a more general way—
- trying to show you the overall picture—
- using a wide-angle lens rather than a telephoto lens—

What we really have in this psalm is itself an overview—

- an overview of what God is doing in the world...
- It shows us the grand theme of world history which is nothing other than the establishment of a house for God—
- God's establishing Himself over His people as their God and heavenly Father.

This morning we shall look at how this great work of God—this taking of His place as the God and Father of a people—is presented to us in this Psalm...

I. The Psalm opens with a cry from His people for Him to arise in verses 1-6.

- You see the very first words: "Let God arise!"

A. What could this possibly mean?

1. Is the Lord God not already exalted above all things?
 - How then, can He arise?
 - Does He not dwell in highest glory above us?
 - Indeed He does!
 - He is the most high God, and His essential glory cannot be added to, for it is an infinite ocean fullness!
2. But the request is that He would arise to make His glory known to us.
 - a. It is aware that God is, in a sense, hiding Himself from us.
 - As I said before, if He were to show His glory openly and without restraint,
 - all that is not holy would be engulfed in the flames of His judgement...
 - Only those who have been sanctified by the redemption of Jesus Christ will be able to stand in the day of His coming.
 - He waits to openly and fully reveal Himself until all His elect are gathered safely into Christ.
 - b. But still, it is the desire of those who have been redeemed that the Lord would arise to make Himself known...

- We recognise that things are not right in this world!
 - We recognise that God is mocked and blasphemed by puny little men and women who would not dare to say such things if God were to appear in His glory!
 - And we recognise that His work of redemption in us is far from complete...
 - and that when He arises, it will not only mean that His enemies are consumed...
 - it will also mean that His saints are at last perfected—His work in them will be complete in making them holy!
- c. The ultimate answer to the prayer that He would arise will be given at His return...
- But this prayer also recognises that God arises in different degrees as history unfolds—sometimes making Himself known more than others...
 - And there are times when He seems to be sleeping...
 - When all sorts of things are done on this earth that ought to get a response from Him...
 - but they do not.
 - Idolaters go on with their blasphemies, oppressors go on with their oppressing, and adulterers go on with their uncleanness.
 - And God does not rise up against them.
 - And we ourselves who believe find that we are weak and sluggish in our walk—
 - we do not see how great and awesome He is...
 - and we want Him to arise upon us to do the work that He has promised to do in our lives.

B. Just look at what happens when He does arise... as it is described in this Psalm—

- Two things...
 1. First, He gets glory upon His enemies!
 - a. They who had grown bold in sinning (because He had not yet arisen), are terrified to see Him...
 - They had long suppressed the truth about Him and hoped that He would always leave them alone...
 - Many times, they had even deceived themselves and one another in their denials of Him to suppose that He would never come...

- b. But when He comes, they are scattered and they flee before Him!
 - They boasted that they were something apart from Him, but all their glorying is blown away like smoke is blown away by the wind...
 - They are melted like wax—even as a candle is consumed.
- c. The glory of God that they had long ignored and opposed is now revealed all the more clearly in judging them than it ever would have been revealed in merely restraining them.
 - All through history the Lord has raised up wicked men, giving them power and strength and leaving them to go their own way,
 - only that He might be glorified in bringing them down.
 - He did this with Pharaoh, He does this with antichrist, and He does this with the Devil himself.
 - Ultimately, it will be done at the last day—this is where history is headed...

TRANS> Be sure then, that when you pray this prayer, (or sing this Psalm)

- you are not one of the ones who will meet with God's terrible judgement when He arises.
 - In Malachi, the Lord deals with those of His people who were asking Him to arise, but who had themselves not repented of their sins.
 - For Him to arise when they were not redeemed would have meant their own destruction as well...
- 2. But if you are truly in Christ, God's arising will have an altogether different affect upon you...
 - a. As I have already indicated, His arising for you will mean that you will at last be perfected in holiness before Him!
 - If you are poor in Spirit and mourn because of your sin—
 - If you are meek and realise that you cannot save yourself...
 - If you are hungering and thirsting for His righteousness...
 - you will receive all the you long for when He arises.
 - b. So you see the great contrast here in the consequences of God's arising...
 - As the end of verse 2, the wicked are said to perish,
 - but verse 3 says, "let the righteous be glad!"
 - It says they have reason to rejoice and be exceedingly glad when the majesty and glory of God is revealed upon earth.

- They will be a people who are filled with the praises when He is revealed!
- c. They will see Him being gracious to those who know they are destitute...
- 1) They are called orphans and widows because they know themselves to be estranged from God until He arises!
 - They groan as Israel did in Egypt under bondage, and God hears their cries.
 - They were not meant to live in Egypt, but in their heavenly Father's house.
 - That is why they cry out as helpless orphans and widows...until He comes—
 - they are poor in spirit, they mourn, they are meek, they hunger and thirst for righteousness...
 - 2) And so God arises and establishes them in families...
 - See that in verse 6?
 - He brings them into His very own house where they who were destitute receive the fullness of their heavenly Father's provision...
 - Not only are they given their daily bread, but they are given grace and counsel to live beautifully as His own children...
 - and they have the delightful pleasure of His presence.

TRANS> So God's arising has the ultimate effect of bringing out the contrast between those who are His people and those who are not.

- The lines get blurry when the Lord is far away, but the nearer He comes, the more He shows Himself—the more the contrast is seen.
- Is that not what happened when He came to Egypt to rescue His people?
 - A distinction was made between the Egyptians and the Israelites!

II. The Psalm shows how God does indeed establish His dwelling among His people...

- **how He reveals Himself by redeeming them and establishing them as His house while yet destroying their enemies.**
- A. The Psalm shows us this by speaking of our Lord's movement with His people from the wilderness to Mount Zion...
1. Look at how it is laid out...

- In verse 7-10, it speaks of the Lord marching through the wilderness at the head of His people when He brought them out Egypt...
 - then in 11-14, of His overthrowing their enemies as He defeated them along the way and as He rooted them out of the land of Canaan...
 - and at last in verses 15-18 of His entering His resting place on Mount Zion when the ark was brought into the temple at Jerusalem.
2. In singing of God's procession from Egypt to Mt. Zion, we, who live in these New Testament times, are led to consider three phases of God's redemption...
- a. First, the one that is spoken of—
 - how God came to Israel when she was in bondage in Egypt and led her to the promised land where He fixed His throne to rule in her midst...
 - b. Secondly, we ought to think of the coming of Christ—His incarnation which was His wilderness time...
 - in which He entered so fully into His people's plight that He went to the cross to bear their sins...
 - followed by His ascent to the right hand of God as the victor over sin, death, and Satan from which throne He gathers His people to bless them and to subdue His enemies...
 - c. And thirdly—the third thing that should come to our minds—
 - is the return of the Lord when He will ultimately arise to bless His people and to curse His enemies once and for all.
 - All of history is moving in that direction...

TRANS> So we have, in this poetic record of God's establishment of His throne among His people,

- something past, something present, and something future of which to sing...
- With this in mind,

B. Let us look at the details of the progression of God from the wilderness to the throne on Mt. Zion as it pertains to us.

1. First, in 7-10, see how He carries us through the wilderness...
 - a. The picture is given of His provision for their needs by causing the heavens to drop rain in the wilderness...
 - You will remember that manna and quail came out of the heavens to feed them!
 - And that water gushed forth from the flinty rock at Moses' command.

- Clearly, these hundreds of thousands of Israelites were utterly incapable of keeping themselves alive in the wilderness apart from God’s wonder working power...
- b. Brothers and sisters, this teaches you that God goes before you in the wilderness of this world...
- and it is He that keeps you.
 - Christ Himself is described as the manna that feeds us and the rock from which we drink...
 - He rightly said to us, “without me, you can do nothing!”
 - We would die in the wilderness of this world for want of bread and water if our Lord did not go before us.
 - He feeds us with His word and Spirit so that we stay alive, even in the deepest trials.
- c. And you can count on this supply for all eternity!
- In fact, after the second coming, His supply of His word and Spirit will not diminish...
 - It will rather increase a hundredfold!
 - We will live by the provision of Christ forever in heaven, without which, even heaven itself would be a howling wilderness!
2. Secondly, in verses 11-14 there is the destruction of our enemies.
- a. You remember when Israel came through the wilderness how the Amalekites attacked them at the rear and God gave Israel victory at war with them...
- all along the way, they had enemies rise up even from among their own number—who led them to worship idols and who sought to overthrow the rule of the Lord...
 - God constantly led His people into victory—
 - against Sihon and Og,
 - against the Canaanite nations that they displaced at His command...in order that He might establish His throne in that land.
- b. Once again, it is clear that Israel on her won was helpless against these formidable foes!
- She was not trained for war, and they lived in cities surrounded by protective walls that usually took trained armies many weeks to penetrate.
 - But because the Lord was with them, they were able to destroy all their enemies with relative ease.

- At His word, He commanded them to go in and their enemies fell, not by their strength or their wit, but by obedience to their Lord.
- c. What encouragement there is for you in this dear Christian!
- 1) You have many enemies!
 - There is your own flesh that wars with your Spirit to lead you to pursue what God has forgiven...
 - There is the world that tries to entice you and swallow you up in its empty pursuits be they riches, honours, or pleasures...
 - There is the Devil who attacks you by persecution and deception—often persecution and deception that arises even within the church!
 - 2) You have many enemies, but the mighty Lord is on your side...
 - By the grace of the Lord Jesus, you overcome them all—the world, the flesh and the Devil...
 - Yes, there is a struggle as long as we are in this present world and the struggle will continue...
 - We must fight the good fight...
 - but Jesus tells us to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world!
 - Though they may bring you low, they cannot destroy you because the Lord chases them away...
 - They flee before Him as you obey His call.
 - Verse 11 reminds you that He has given you His word—and that you have heard it proclaimed by a whole host...
 - perhaps by your parents, your friends, and the ministers that God has appointed...
 - Do not be like Israel when they would not obey the word to enter Canaan and ended up in the wilderness...
 - Let your faith arise to obey God's call...
 - You will put off your stealing when you obey His call to give...
 - You will put off your adultery when you obey His call to love your wife as Christ loved the church...
 - You will put off your lies when you obey His call to speak the truth in love...

- You will put off your quarrels and your bitterness when you obey His call to exercise love and kindness to your neighbour.
- 3) The figures in verse 13 and 14 are difficult and there are many interpretations...
- but the main idea is clear—that the Lord completely turns things around for His people before their enemies when they obey His call...
- a) They go from the lowly place of persecution to the exalted place of “great reward in heaven”!
- They go from cattle pens or sheep folds as pilgrims and strangers in the earth to “doves with silver wings and golden feathers”...
 - from the darkness of battle to the whiteness of victory.
- b) That is the expectation that belongs to you in Jesus Christ—and once again, an expectation that will completely fulfilled at the second coming of our Lord...
- It is then that He will completely remove our enemies, binding them in the flames of His wrath in the place of outer darkness...
 - They will be unable to molest us ever again.
 - His kingdom will be peace.

TRANS> So we have seen first how the Lord provides for you in the wilderness and secondly, how He enables you to overcome your enemies.

3. Now thirdly, see how He is shown to enter His temple on Mount Zion, establishing His throne in the midst of His people!
- a. In verse 15-16, the great mountains of Bashan are compared to the Mount in which God has chosen to dwell.
- 1) The mountains of Bashan were called “mountains of God” according to the manner of speaking of the Hebrews—because of their greatness!
- These were the snow capped giants of the north country including the famed Mt. Hermon!
 - Beside them, Mt. Zion was but a little hill.
- 2) Yet, Mt. Zion was the place God chose for His dwelling place...
- The mountains of Bashan are charged not to be envious...
 - God chooses the weak and the small to confound the mighty...
 - He chooses the foolish to confound the wise.

- We are not in the faith because we are the strongest or the most intelligent members of the human race...
 - It is because God in His free grace and mercy has chosen to dwell among us—and chosen us for His dwelling place.
 - There is no room for boasting, only for rejoicing that God has elected us to be His own!
 - We are His holy temple, His resting place, the place He has chosen to dwell.
- b. Take heart, my brothers and sisters, the LORD is our King!
- 1) As verse 17 says, His chariots are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands!
 - a) His church, His temple, His dwelling place which dwelling place we are cannot be destroyed...
 - Those enemies will have to break through those thousands of chariots to get to us, and that they can never do.
 - Do not be intimidated dear brothers and sisters!
 - Your relationship with Him is perfectly secure.
 - b) Why is it so secure?
 - Because He has purchased it with His own blood...
 - He did not ascend to this seat until after He had come to earth and borne our sins on the cross, and overcome death for us...
 - After He had purged our sins, it was then that He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high to rule in the midst of His enemies...
 - 2) The LORD has ascended on high!
 - He has established His throne on Mt. Zion—
 - For Israel the earthly Zion that could be shaken,
 - but for us, the heavenly Zion where all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him for our sake!
 - He leads captivity captive and receives gifts among men!
 - Everything is subservient to Him!
 - Whether this means that His enemies are taken captives in the prison of Hell, which they will be...

- or whether it speaks of us who were once captive to sin, to the world, to the devil, and to death...
- the point is the same...
- Our Lord is exalted as head over all things for the sake of the church in which He had chosen to dwell!
 - It is from His glorious resting place that He pours forth His blessings upon us and overcomes all our foes...

3) And do you see why He does this?

- It is that the Lord God might dwell there...(v. 18)
 - that He might dwell in us—among us—as His holy temple!
 - He has chosen to take His seat there, in the midst of us, and from there He rules over all!
- This is that great privilege I spoke to you about so fully last week!
 - You are able to live in God’s own house, to behold His glory, to see the love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 - to receive His love poured out on you...
 - to have His gracious provision to live in beautiful imitation of Him!
 - You are privileged to live in Communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

TRANS> Brothers and sisters,

- The LORD, in Jesus Christ, has already ascended to take His place in the New Jerusalem at our head...
 - By His Spirit, He has already entered into His temple...
 - and He is now busy gathering us into His house until the day of His return when He will put all His enemies under His feet...
 - He is pouring out the fruits of His blessing upon us and we are richly blessed!

III. And so in verse 19 we are taught to bless Him in His glorious reign

- But what does it mean to bless Him?
 - It is a very high thing to do...
 - To praise God is a great thing, but to honour Him is greater—and to bless Him is even greater still!

- When He blesses us, He gives us what is good, but when we bless Him, we ascribe to Him all goodness...
 - We take delight in who He is, what He does, we take delight in Him!
 - You need to be sure that you bless Him in His glorious reign...
 - There are many who do not want Him to reign...
 - They are distressed that He had taken the throne and would sooner curse Him...
 - These are His enemies who will perish, and so will you unless you come to delight in His reign—
 - to be glad that all authority in heaven and earth is given to Him...
 - to be glad to have Him rule over you...
 - to be glad that He arises to make Himself known!
 - Let's look at four ways you are to bless Him in His glorious reign...
- A. First, bless Him as the One who daily loads us with benefits (verse 19-20)
1. Look at how our reigning Lord is described in these two verses!
 - The picture is that now that He has taken His throne in the midst of His people as His temple,
 - He, as a conquering king, distributes the spoils of His victory to us...
 - You know, the spoils—the things He has obtained in ascending to His throne—
 - the garments of righteousness and the treasures of grace.
 2. And His greatest gift is the gift of salvation—twice it is ascribed to Him!
 - v. 20 says: “Our God is the God of salvation; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.”
 - This is what sets Him apart from all other gods—gods so called!
 - The true God does something that no false religion can tolerate!
 - He saves us by Himself bearing our sins!
 - He came down into the wilderness and trod through it with us and for us...
 - And then He went so far as to take upon Him the very curse that He Himself had placed on us!
 - In every other religion, you are left at last to save yourself...

- Your faith is not at last in God to redeem you from your sins—even to bear your iniquities for you...
 - but you are left to bear them yourself...
 - You are taught to trust in yourself instead of in the Lord.
- But in the true religion, our Lord is reigning because He has borne our sins in His own body, which body He took for that very purpose...
 - It is absurd to all but those whom God has humbled to see their need of such salvation.
 - Have you been humbled to see that you need God to save you?
 - Bless the LORD, for He is the God of our salvation!
 - to Him belong escapes from death!

TRANS> That is the first way you are to bless our reigning LORD...

B. Secondly, you are to bless Him as the One who destroys His enemies

- This is brought out in verses 21-23...
 1. It is a bloody scene of utter destruction where the dogs come to lap up their blood!
 - Here you see that He wounds the heads of his enemies, the hairy scalp (an intimidating figure) of the one who still goes on his trespasses...
 - This is the One who refuses to bless the LORD in His reign...
 - He is the One who does not want Him to reign, even though He is a gracious saviour...
 - God is said in verse 22 to bring back these enemies from Bashan and from the depths of the sea...
 - They are trying to run away from Him, but He pursues them and arrests them—
 - They cannot escape His judgement because they refused the escape He provided from sin and death.
 2. You are to bless God for this destruction of His enemies!
 - a. This is what He promised long ago to Adam and Eve—that He would crush the head of the serpent—
 - the crafty serpent who led the human race into sin...
 - and all those who continue in His rebellion... his seed.

- b. It may seem a strange thing to bless God for the bloody crushing of His enemies,
 - but vengeance rightly belongs to Him, and it is His glory and it is for the peace of His kingdom that He crushes all who oppose His gracious reign...
 - Heaven would not be heaven if His enemies were not destroyed, and our reigning LORD would not have the glory that is His due!
 - The only time the word Hallelujah is ever used in the New Testament is in the book for Revelation when the enemies of the Lord are at last destroyed...
 - God's crushing of His enemies is not something to be ashamed of!
 - Of course the world regards it with utter contempt—
 - they call it a blot on God's character...
 - but it is not—it is His glory to hate evil and to crush the wicked.
 - This is an aspect of His reign for which you are to bless Him...

TRANS> So now we have seen two things we are to bless God for—

- saving His people...
- crushing His enemies...

C. Thirdly, we see the manner in which you are to bless Him... you are to bless Him together—in unity with the saints...

- This is what you are taught in verse 24-27...
 1. The picture here is that of a victory celebration which was always characterised by the women playing timbrels (or tambourines) in a victory parade...
 - The celebrants have seen the LORD going forth from His temple to fight against their enemies, and then returning again,
 - even as the Lord Jesus left the glorious of heaven to come to earth and fight for us and then to return to heaven in triumph!

TRANS> Now we have just seen that we are to bless Him for His victory—this is a continuation of that... but something is added...

2. Here see that we are to bless Him in the congregations.
 - a. Reference is made to all His people—the fountain of Israel...
 - Little Benjamin, the tribe that was almost annihilated in the time of the Judges is there...

- Judah, the leading tribe from which our Lord came is there...
 - and then there are the two tribes that were the most remote—Zebulun and Naphtali.
 - Together these represent all the tribes
- b. These tribes were once at enmity, but under David, they were reconciled...
- and even those who were at great distances made the sacrifice to come and join in the celebration...
 - Corporate worship is something you ought to be eager about, for we are commanded to bless God together...
 - And not just as bodies together, but also as reconciled together—
 - as those who love each other...
 - If God has so loved us that He has sent His Son and has gathered us together in His household,
 - then it behoves us to love one another.
 - As our LORD taught us, it is totally inappropriate to come into God's house if you have sinned against your brother and have reconciled with him.
 - Worship without proper unity is hypocritical worship...
 - You cannot love your Lord if you do not love those for whom He died.
 - See that as much as it depends on you, you keep all your relationships clear and in a state of peace.
- c. But understand that this unity is not with those who turn to idols...
- When God is worshipped idolatrously, you are not to join in but to oppose it as all the faithful prophets did...
 - Unity is never to be sought at the expense of obedience.
 - Unity is to be sought in obedience—we pray for the peace and purity of the church—not just the peace.
- D. Fourthly, you are to bless Him with faith in Him as the One who will complete His work (verses 28-31)
1. First, faith in His work in us...
- He has commanded your strength and you are to ask Him to make us strong as His people...
 - to say, v. 28: “Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us.”

- You are not to grow discouraged when you see that there is still much weakness in you...
 - The LORD does not do His work all at once...
 - If He were to fully arise in His glory and so perfect us before the time, many of His elect would be destroyed.
 - It is for you to seek His glory that you may become more and more like Him...
 - But your faith must be in His promise that He will yet strengthen you...

- 2. And secondly, you must have faith in His work among the nations... that He will complete His work of gathering in the nations to serve Him...
 - Verses 29-31 speak of nations coming to God with their tribute,
 - acknowledging Him as the reigning Lord.

 - a. This speaks of the great change we have seen that occurred after Jesus ascended to His throne...
 - It was then that He sent forth His call to the gentiles and began to gather them into His kingdom!

 - b. He has promised to bless all the families of the earth now that He is reigning,
 - and it is for you to believe His promise and promote the gospel...
 - If you love the Lord, you will love missions—local and foreign...
 - You will want the nations brought together to join in the praise...
 - You will want to see many more people gathered into God’s house to be His dwelling place...
 - You will pray and you will urge them turn to Him.

TRANS> And this brings us to the conclusion of the Psalm...

- Having seen the initial petition that God would arise...
- Having seen His progression from the wilderness to His throne in Zion...
- and Having see how we are called to bless Him in His glorious reign among all nations...

The Psalm concludes with a summons to the nations to praise Him!

- **v. 32 says: “Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh sing praises to the Lord.”**
 - He is to be praised because of His mighty voice that brings blessing to His people.

- He gives them strength through His Word, Jesus Christ, who comes to raise them up to be His glorious house—a people justified and set apart to Him!
- Let all the world join in blessing the great Lord of Heaven and earth!
- Who is it that cannot bless the One who takes what was once lost and ruined and makes it a holy temple in which He dwells?
- A God who not only calls us to be saved, but a God who does the saving himself, even at the price of His own blood!