

Psalm 68 — “Muse On The Majesty Of Your God!”

The subject of Ps 68 is the entry of God into His sanctuary on Zion! This is described under figures borrowed from the triumph of an earthly conqueror, who, after having vanquished his enemies, and taken possession of their country, marches in solemn procession at the head of his troops, to occupy the city which he has selected as his capital and the seat of empire. ... So, God is represented, first as advancing at the head of the Israelites thru the desert; then as leading them victoriously into Canaan; and finally as fixing His royal abode in Zion, whence he reigns in the majesty of universal dominion, acknowledged and feared by all the nations of the earth” (J.J. Stewart Perowne).

In Psalm 68 the character and person of God glistens forth in so many directions just as a beam of light hits a costly jewel and the rays of light reflect off in every direction.

You almost get the sense the psalmist has his copy of his Torah in front of him as he writes and reflects and recounts and celebrates the unrivaled power, the awesome majesty, and universal splendor of OUR GOD!

- One great reason we have to worship & praise is because we have VICTORY IN CHRIST OUR KING!
- He’s our great Ruler, our Warrior, our Conqueror, our Victor!

Consider the Majesty of God:

- God rides thru the skies in his majesty (Deut 33.26)
- Splendor and majesty are before him (1 Chron 16.27)
- Yours O LORD is the majesty (1 Chron 29.11)
- Will not his majesty terrify you (Job 13.11)
- Around God is awesome majesty (Job 37.22)

Background to Psalm 68 —

- The language draws from previous OT texts of victory: Ex 15 // Num 10 // Deut 33 // Judges 5 // Hab 3 (adapts from Ps 68)
 - ▶ **Ps 68 IS A PRAISE HYMN CELEBRATING THE POWER OF YAHWEH TO SAVE.**
- Background & Setting: David wrote it & MOST interpreters say David wrote it when the Ark was removed from the house of Obed-Edom and transported to Mt Zion, 2 Sam 6. **see v.24-26!** (more in 1 Chron 15-16!)

THESIS — Muse on the Majesty of Your God — in 3 royal scenes:

I. The Victorious NATION (1-16)

- (1) **Exult** and Sing (v.1-4) - power of God
- (2) **Rest & Trust** (v.5-6) - protection of God
- (3) **Remember & Bless** (v.7-16) - provision of God

II. The Victorious SAVIOR (17-18)

- These verses are full of *Exalted, Ascended, Unbeatable, Insurmountable language of GOD as KING over enemies, with all spoils & giving to whom he wishes.*

Derek Kidner: God has won his war, entered the city and put his rebellious enemies under tribute. Then v.19ff shows how God’s people share in the benefits of the conquest and victory of God.

3 Truths of Your Savior:

(1) Our **IDENTITY**

(2) Our **SECURITY**

(3) Our **MINISTRY**

III. The Victorious SINGERS (19-35)

- ➔ the *inclusio* “**ble**ss” (v.19a & 35b, cf. v.26a) - **Bless**: means: to esteem highly; it is the proper response to God’s Name, Attributes, Redemption, Deeds. = to bless is to *praise reverently, to boast unashamedly; to revere responsively to who/what GOD is!*

Ephesians 1:20-23 — God raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Jonathan Edwards on the “Excellency of Christ”

In the person of Christ do meet together infinite **majesty** and transcendent meekness. These again are two qualifications that meet together in no other person but Christ. Meekness, properly so called, is a virtue proper only to the creature. We scarcely ever find meekness mentioned as a divine attribute in Scripture, at least not in the New Testament. For thereby seems to be signified, a calmness and quietness of spirit, arising from humility in mutable beings that are naturally liable to be put into a ruffle by the assaults of a tempestuous and injurious world. But Christ, being both God and man, has both infinite majesty and superlative meekness.

Christ is a person of infinite **majesty**. It is he that is spoken of Psalm 45:3 “Gird your sword upon your thigh, O most mighty, with your glory and your majesty.” It is he that is mighty, that rides on the heavens, and his excellency on the sky. It is he that is fearsome out of his holy places, who is mightier than the noise of many waters, yes, than the mighty waves of the sea; before whom a fire goes and burns up his enemies round about; at whose presence the earth quakes and the hills melt; who sits on the circle of the earth and all the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; who rebukes the sea and makes it dry and dries up the rivers; whose eyes are as a flame of fire; from whose presence, and from the glory of whose power, the wicked shall be punished with everlasting destruction; who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who has heaven for his throne and the earth for his footstool and is the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity; whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and of whose dominion there is no end.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned Upon the Savior’s brow;
His head with radiant glories crowned, His lips with grace o’erflow.

To Him I owe my life and breath, And all the joys I have;
He makes me triumph over death, And saves me from the grave.

Since from His bounty I receive Such proofs of love divine,
Had I a thousand hearts to give, Lord, they should all be Thine

— Samuel Stennett

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
 Who has numbered every grain of sand?
 Kings and nations tremble at His voice
 All creation rises to rejoice

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
 Who can question any of His words?
 Who can teach the One who knows all things?
 Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

*Behold our God seated on His throne
 Come, let us adore Him
 Behold our King—nothing can compare
 Come, let us adore Him*

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
 Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
 God eternal, humbled to the grave
 Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

THE KING IN ALL HIS BEAUTY

O lift your eyes to heaven, see
 The Holy One eternal
 Behold the Lord of majesty
 Exalted in His temple
 As symphonies of angels praise
 Now strain to sound His glory
 Come worship, fall before His grace
 The King in all His beauty

*How worthy, how worthy, how worthy
 The King in all His beauty*

Now see the King who wears a crown
 One made of shame and splinters
 The sacrifice for ruined man

The substitute for sinners
 As earth is stained with royal blood
 And quakes with love and fury
 He breathes His last and bows His head
 The King in all His beauty

Now see the Savior lifted up
 The Lamb who reigns in splendor
 The hope of every tribe and tongue
 His kingdom is forever!
 Bring praise and honor to His courts
 Bring wisdom, power, blessing
 For endless ages we'll adore
 The King in all His beauty

PSALM 68: Psalter

(Tune: "The Church's One Foundation")

O Lord, thou hast ascended on high in might to
 reign;
 captivity thou ledest a captive in thy train.
 Rich gifts to thee are offered by men who did rebel,
 who pray that now Jehovah, their God, with them
 may dwell.

Blest be the Lord who daily our heavy burden bears,
 the God of our salvation, who for his people cares.
 Our God is near to help us, our God is strong to
 save;
 the Lord alone is able to ransom from the grave.

Sing unto God, ye nations, ye kingdoms of the
 earth;
 Sing unto God, all people, and praise his matchless
 worth.
 He rides in royal triumph upon the heav'ns abroad;
 he speaks, the mountains tremble before the voice
 of God.

All glory, might, and honor ascribe to God on high;
 his arm protects his people who on his pow'r rely.
 Forth from thy holy dwelling thine awful glories
 shine;
 thou strengthenest thy people; unending praise be
 thine.