
Our Gracious & Generous God

Psalm 65 (pages 418-19 in the black Bibles)

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July 9, 2023

Main point: God's people have many reasons to praise Him. Because God is gracious and generous He answers prayer, forgives sins and reconciles people to Himself. Because God is the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of His creation He is the hope of all the earth.

God Answers Prayer and Atones for Sins (vv. 1-4)

¹There will be silence before You, *and* praise in Zion, O God,

“Praise is due to You” (ESV) (“Praise waits for You in silence.”)

“It may sometimes be the height of worship, in other words, to fall silent before God in awe at His presence and in submission to His will.” (Kidner, Psalms, vol. 1, p.230)

And to You the vow will be performed.

Vows – promises made to God that need to be fulfilled, possibly due to answered prayer or deliverance from enemies or forgiveness of sin.

²O You who hear prayer,

To You all men/flesh come.

³Iniquities prevail against me;
As for our transgressions, You forgive/atone them.

Iniquities – “words/matters of iniquities” Relates more to the inner character and points to an intentional twisting of a given standard.

Transgressions – acts of disobedience, of willful rebellion

Psalm 32:1-2, 5; 51:1-5

Exodus 34:7; Jeremiah 31:34

Psalm 103:8-13

⁴How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near *to You*

Blessed – Psalm 1:1; 2:12; 32:1; 34:8

“Whom You choose to bring near to You.”

God takes the initiative drawing sinners to Himself.

Hebrews 4:14-16

To dwell in Your courts.

We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
Your holy temple.

The place where God’s presence dwells.

God Is the Sovereign Creator & Sustainer (vv. 5-8)

⁵By awesome *deeds* You answer us in righteousness,
O God of our salvation,

You who are the trust/hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea;

⁶Who establishes the mountains by His strength,
Being girded with might;

⁷Who stills the roaring of the seas,
The roaring of their waves,

And the tumult of the peoples.

⁸They who dwell in the ends *of the earth* stand in awe of Your signs;

You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.

God is the Generous Provider (vv. 9-13)

⁹You visit the earth and cause it to overflow;
You greatly enrich it;
The stream of God is full of water;
You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,
You settle its ridges,
You soften it with showers,
You bless its growth.

¹¹You have crowned the year with Your bounty,
And Your paths drip *with* fatness.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness drip,
And the hills gird themselves with rejoicing.

¹³The meadows are clothed with flocks
And the valleys are covered with grain;

They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Covenant blessings – prosperity, rain, abundant produce of the ground, offspring of animals, etc.

Deuteronomy 28:11-12

Application:

Psalm 103:1-5

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.
²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
³Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
⁴Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
⁵Who satisfies your years with good things,
So *that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
Praise God for answered prayer.

Praise God for His forgiveness in Christ.

Praise God for His Grace in reconciling you to Himself through faith in Christ.

Praise God because He cares for and provides for us.

Praise God because of all He has done so that the nations might also be reconciled to Him through His mighty deeds in Christ.

Propitiation

Romans 3:23-26

Hebrews 2:17-18

1 John 2:1-2; 4:10