

## PSALM 65

### *God's Abundant Favor to Earth and Man.*

#### INTRODUCTION.

- A. To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.
- B. This psalm praises God's blessings for man on the earth. Coffman refers to a book by Cressy Morrison entitled, *Man does not Live Alone*, that describes many features of the earth that are such blessings. For an example, that water expands when it freezes (the only liquid to do so); the tilt of the earth's axis to give the seasons; the distance from the sun to make life bearable; the amount of surface covered by water to moderate the extremes, etc.
- C. We need to learn to give glory to God for these characteristics of creation which bless man and make his existence not only possible, but enjoyable.
- D. Coffman gives the following titles to the three natural divisions:
  - I. God is praised for His moral qualities (65:1-5).
  - II. God is praised for His preparation of the earth for man (65:6-9).
  - III. God is praised for an abundant harvest (65:10-13).

#### COMMENTS.

- A. God is Praised for His Moral Qualities (65:1-5).

God is praised here because:

1. He hears our prayers (65:2).
2. He forgives our sins (65:3).
3. He provides fellowship with Himself by telling man how he can worship Him (65:4).
4. He delivers His people from their enemies (65:5).

*There will be silence before You, and praise in Zion, O God,  
And to You the vow will be performed.*

*2 O You who hear prayer,  
To You all men come.*

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

*4 How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You  
To dwell in Your courts.  
We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,  
Your holy temple.*

*5 By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
You who are the trust of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea;*

**[v1]** "Praise is awaiting You...and to You the vow shall be performed." I guess I have had difficulty understanding the nature of vows, and their purpose. They were oaths taken in God's name to perform some service to His glory if certain blessings were received, as deliverance from some difficulty. The performance of the vow was a form of praise to God and acknowledgment of Him as the source of the deliverance.

**[v2]** "O You who hear our prayer..." What other God is alive and can hear? But the term, "hear our prayer" does not mean that He knows what we are saying, but that he grants our request. See Isa. 59:1,2.

"...to You all flesh shall come." This is in answer to prayer, and to whom does "all flesh" refer? Animal world, or all mankind?

**[v3]** "...as for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them." God would forgive their sins then, but the actual atonement would be on the cross about a thousand years later.

**[v4]** "Blessed is the man whom You choose..." Whom does God choose? What are some of the ways He chooses. Israel as His people, the Messiah, or the individual who does His will?

**[v5]** "By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us..." The KJV and the ASV have "by terrible deeds". This word is found many times. See Psa. 111:9. Frequency of some of these

translations is interesting: of the 375 times the word is found in the OT it is translated “fear” 242 times, “be afraid” 76 times, “terrible” 24 times, “reverend” once.

B. God’s Preparation of the Earth as Man’s Dwelling (65:6-9).

These statements may have a dual reference: they may refer to creation, or to His providence in maintaining it through natural law. See Heb. 1:2,3.

Who establishes the mountains by His strength,

Being girded with might;

7 Who stills the roaring of the seas,

The roaring of their waves,

And the tumult of the peoples.

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

You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.

9 You 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.

[v6] “You established the mountains by Your power...” When we look at the sheer size of mountain ranges like the Rockies, Alps or the Himalayas we should marvel at the power that heaved those masses of rock into ridges and peaks.

[v7] “You who still the noise of the seas...” What are some of the factors that control the “noise” or waves of the seas? The moon, its size and distance determine its gravitational pull, the polar ice caps, which lower the level of the seas, all effect the waves.

[v8] “...You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.” What makes day and night and their lengths? What controls days?

[v9] “You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it...” What seems to be God’s “visiting” of the earth referred to here? What is the most enriching thing in Palestine for crops and the land?

C. Praising God for an Abundant Harvest (65:10-13).

The provisions for an abundant harvest, of grain and pasture for the flocks seem to be a continuation of God visiting the earth and watering it.

You water its furrows abundantly,

You settle its ridges,

You soften it with showers,

You bless its growth.

11 You have crowned the year with Your bounty,

And Your paths drip *with* fatness.

12 The pastures of the wilderness drip,

And the hills gird themselves with rejoicing.

13 The meadows are clothed with flocks

And the valleys are covered with grain;

They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

[v10] “You water its ridges...you settle its furrows; you make it soft with showers...”

[v11] “...Your paths drip with abundance.”

[v12] “They drop on the pastures...” All of these figures still seem to refer to the blessings of water to that dry land, and all blessings seem to be appropriately described with some characteristic of water.

[v13] “The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain...” Abundant rain makes the whole land fruitful. All of these blessings are from God and we should give Him credit.

“...they shout for joy and they also sing.” Fruitfulness is personified and described as rejoicing and praising God for its blessing, how much should man be thankful and praise God.