

Meditate & Memorize

2023 July: Psalm 66

Praise for God's Mighty Deeds and for His Answer to Prayer.

For the choir director. A Song. A Psalm.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;

² Sing the glory of His name;

Make His praise glorious.

³ Say to God, "How awesome are Your works!

Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will ^[a]give feigned obedience to
You.

⁴ "All the earth will worship You,

And will sing praises to You;

They will sing praises to Your name." ^[b]*Selah.*

⁵ Come and see the works of God,

Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land;

They passed through the river on foot;

There let us rejoice in Him!

⁷ He rules by His might forever;

His eyes keep watch on the nations;

Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. *Selah.*

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples,

And ^{let} sound His praise abroad,

⁹ Who ^{will} keep us in life

And does not allow our feet to ^{ever} slip.

¹⁰ For You have tried us, O God;

You have refined us as silver is refined.

¹¹ You brought us into the net;

You laid an oppressive burden upon our loins.

¹² You made men ride over our heads;

We went through fire and through water,

Yet You brought us out into *a place of* abundance.

¹³ I shall come into Your house with burnt offerings;

I shall pay You my vows,

¹⁴ Which my lips uttered

And my mouth spoke when I was in distress.

¹⁵ I shall offer to You burnt offerings of fat beasts,

With the smoke of rams;

I shall make *an offering of* ^{bulls} with male goats. *Selah.*

16 Come *and* hear, all who $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ fear God,
And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

17 I cried to Him with my mouth,
And $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ He was extolled with my tongue.

18 If I $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ regard wickedness in my heart,
The Lord $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ will not $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ hear;

19 But certainly God has heard;
He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God,
Who has not turned away my prayer
Nor His lovingkindness from me.

Study Guide:

Before you begin, still yourself before the Lord and pray that God would grant you eyes to see and a heart and mind ready to learn all that He wants to show and teach you. Then, take a few moments to read over the whole Psalm a couple of times before you begin. Mark it up. Notice repeated words/phrases, mark warnings, promises, blessings and the like. Discover and note attributes of God, comparisons, contrasts, and commands. Prepare to be blessed as you spend time with God in His word, such time is never wasted. Enjoy!

What does your Bible say the theme of this Psalm is?

Once again we seem the author encouraging readers to act. List the action verbs.
Verse 1:

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-

Verse 2:

- 4-

Verse 5:

- 5-
- 6-

Verse 8:

- 7-
- 8-

Verse 16:

- 9-
- 10-

Who is admonished to participate in the worship of God? (v. 1, 4, 8, 16)

Throughout this Psalm is the reference to the already-not yet reality of our relationship with God. In other words, there are verses that speak of what God has already done, what He is doing and what He will yet do. So also for us. Here are a few examples:
According to verse 4, what will the enemies of God yet do?

In verse 4 what will the earth yet do? How does this verse compare with Philippians 2.9-11?

Verses 6-7 recount deeds God has already done. List them. Read Psalm 74.12-17 and note the list of deeds recounted there. Compare and contrast the two lists. (Here are a couple of other passages that also recall the deeds of God: Joshua 24.1-13; Isaiah 63.7-14; Psalms 77 and 105.)

As to what God does in an ongoing way, reread verse 7 and 9. What 2 things is God continually in the act of doing?

- 1-
- 2-

What warning is given in the second half of verse 7? Look up these other warning verses regarding the same issue and note the similarities: (The Bible is full of verses warning against pride and arrogance. This is a short list, just from Proverbs.)

Proverbs 11.2
Proverbs 16.5
Proverbs 16.18
Proverbs 18.12
Proverbs 21.4
Proverbs 21.24
Proverbs 29.23

Now reread verses 10-12. Note all of the things the psalmist says that God has already done to His people:

1-
2-
3-
4-
5-
Yet, 6-

A couple of things in verse 12. It says, “we went through fire and through water, and yet, You brought us through.” Glory! Can you think of some fire and water He can brought you through, situations in which you thought you were going to be consumed or drowned? Now read Isaiah 43.1-3. This is the prophet Isaiah speaking on behalf of God, so “I” statements are God speaking. Make note of a few things:

How is God characterized? (v. 1a)

1-
2-

What admonition is given? (v.1b)

What two things does God say He has already done for His people, for you and me? (v.1b)

What promises are given by God for when, not “if” we face trials?

How do these two passages encourage you since they included in Scripture “inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness...”?

Finally, make note of any attributes of God highlighted in this psalm.

These passages suggest the power of remembering what God has already done as a strengthening for our journey ahead. "Remember" is the key word for the book of Deuteronomy. Moses admonished the second generation of God's people, those who would actually go into the Promise Land, that remembering who God is and what He's already done as the foundation of their "living long in the land." But, spoiler alert, they failed to remember these things and fell into idolatry (see the books of Joshua and Judges).

The same admonition stands for us today: remember who God is and what He's already done. When we don't practice remembering we tend to wander away from Him, worship false gods and grow restless and weary. Take some time now to consider and contemplate who God is, dare to think back on the times when He has carried you through fire and water, when He has held you. He has. He does. And He will continue to do so. I get it. Sometimes it gets really hot and the water gets really high. But we're never alone in it. He is with us, you and me. He is faithful.

Thank God for His work in your life, for answered prayer.