

## PSALM 68

This beautiful, sublime, and comprehensive--but at the same time difficult--psalm, opens with that solemn invocation which was used by Moses whenever the ark set forward before the armies of Israel in their way to Canaan. The deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage is alluded to. The victories that God had given to his people, as well as the establishment among them of the immediate presence of God by the ark resting on Mount Zion, are spoken of. All the nations are incited to praise and magnify God's holy name, who alone gives strength and power to his people Israel and takes vengeance on their enemies, seeing they are also God's enemies.

### For the choir director. A Psalm of David. A Song.

- 1 Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee before Him.
- 2 As smoke is driven away, so drive *them* away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish before God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; yes, let them rejoice with gladness.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up *a song* for Him who rides through the deserts, whose name is YAHWEH, and exult before Him.
  
- 5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.
- 6 God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.
  
- 7 O God, when You went forth before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness, -- Selah
- 8 the earth quaked; the heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God; Sinai itself *quaked* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You shed abroad a plentiful rain, O God; You confirmed Your inheritance when it was parched.
- 10 Your creatures settled in it; You provided in Your goodness for the poor, O God.
  
- 11 The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the *good tidings* are a great host:
- 12 "Kings of armies flee, they flee, and she who remains at home will divide the spoil!"
- 13 When you lie down among the sheepfolds, you *are like* the wings of a dove covered with silver, and its pinions with glistening gold.
- 14 When the Almighty scattered the kings there, it was snowing in Zalmon.
  
- 15 A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan;

a mountain *of many peaks* is the mountain of Bashan.

16 Why do you look with envy, O mountains with *many peaks*,  
at the mountain which God has desired for His abode?  
Surely YAHWEH will dwell *there* forever.

17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands;  
the Lord is among them *as at Sinai*, in holiness.

18 You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your captives*;  
You have received gifts among men,  
even *among* the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell *there*.

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God *who* is our salvation. Selah

20 God is to us a God of deliverances; and to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.

21 Surely God will shatter the head of His enemies,  
the hairy crown of him who goes on in his guilty deeds.

22 The Lord said, "I will bring *them* back from Bashan.  
I will bring *them* back from the depths of the sea;

23 That your foot may shatter *them* in blood,  
the tongue of your dogs *may have* its portion from *your* enemies."

24 They have seen Your procession, O God,  
the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.

25 The singers went on, the musicians after *them*,  
in the midst of the maidens beating tambourines.

26 Bless God in the congregations, *even YAHWEH, you who are* of the fountain of Israel.

27 There is Benjamin, the youngest, ruling them, the princes of Judah *in* their throng,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

28 Your God has commanded your strength; show Yourself strong, O God,  
who have acted on our behalf.

29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring gifts to You.

30 Rebuke the beasts in the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples,  
trampling under foot the pieces of silver;  
He has scattered the peoples who delight in war.

31 Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praises to the Lord, -- Selah

33 to Him who rides upon the highest heavens, which are from ancient times;  
behold, He speaks forth with His voice, a mighty voice.

34 Ascribe strength to God; His majesty is over Israel and His strength is in the skies.

35 O God, *You are* awesome from Your sanctuary.  
The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God!

## PRAYER

*O Lord God, you are mighty and merciful. You have shown forth your might in the preservation of Israel even to this day. Mighty also are you in your judgments toward all hardened sinners. But what great and tender mercy do you shower on those who with true faith and hearty repentance turn to you for salvation. Shower down upon us the gracious dew of your divine blessing. Refresh us who are wearied with the burden of our sins. Bring us forth from the captivity of our own sinful lusts and bestow upon us that choicest of your gifts, the Holy Spirit. By his aid we may be assured of blessings now and a blessed resurrection to eternal life, through the merits of our Messiah, Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.*