

PSALMS 64 and 65

David's life was one of continuous conflict. Here he describes the cruelty and craftiness of his enemies and prays for God to overthrow them. Then the righteous will be glad, and men will fear when they consider what God has done for Israel.

Psalm 64

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity,
- 3 who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed bitter speech as their arrow,
- 4 to shoot from concealment at the blameless;
suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear.
- 5 They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly;
they say, "Who can see them?"
- 6 They devise injustices, *saying*, "We are ready with a well-conceived plot";
for the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep.

- 7 But God will shoot at them with an arrow. Sudden will be their wounds,
- 8 they will make him stumble; their own tongue is against them;
all who see them will shake the head.
- 9 Then all men will fear, and they will declare the work of God,
and will consider what He has done.
- 10 The righteous man will be glad in YAHWEH and will take refuge in Him;
and all the upright in heart will glory.

Here is an uplifting song from beginning to end. We do not know the occasion for its writing, but perhaps the time of harvest had arrived and men had come to the sanctuary to bring their tithes and fulfill their vows. That God should be held in awe by all mankind is clearly shown by his handiwork described in verses five to the end of the psalm. He provides not only for the needs of man, but for those of the beasts of the field as well.

Psalm 65

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

- 1 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;
6 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.
10 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.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you are the hope of all the earth. Your provision for all your creation is readily apparent for anyone who will look. We give thee praise for the showers that give life not only to the animal kingdom but to the fields of grain as well. When we see the bounty of the harvest of the fields, may we remember that the fields are ripe for the harvest of souls too. Give us zeal to bring in the sheaves while the day is here, for night comes when no man can work. We ask in Christ's name, Amen.