

## *PSALMS 66 and 67*

The whole world is called upon to lift her voice in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful works of God. The psalmist recalls God's wonders of old to his people, how the nation of Israel passed through the sea on dry land, and how the God of Israel keeps watch on the rebellious nations--a warning for those nations not to exalt themselves. He then directs the people of Israel to sound God's praises because he has kept her through her many trials, refining her as silver is refined. The psalmist closes with a personal testimony of what God has done for him.

### Psalm 66

#### **For the choir director. A Song. A Psalm.**

- 1 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 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." 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 sound His praise abroad,
- 9 who keeps us in life and does not allow our feet to 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 fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul.
- 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue.
- 18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not 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 or His lovingkindness from me.

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God has caused his face to shine upon the nation of Israel, his chosen people. They are encouraged to let God's praises be known among all the nations, that people everywhere may praise him. God judges with uprightness and guides the nations of the earth, and has blessed all with bounteous harvest that they may fear him.

Psalm 67

**For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.**

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us, *and* cause His face to shine upon us— Selah
- 2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah
- 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
- 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.
- 7 God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

PRAYER

*Almighty God, you are bountiful in your mercies to all peoples, especially to Israel, your chosen people. Turn their hearts this day that they might worship their Messiah, the Lord Jesus. You have tried them in the past and refined them as silver. Turn them now and prepare them for that day when Jesus comes again to reign on the earth. He alone is their great High Priest, their Saviour. Amen.*