

Psalm 65:1-13 (NIV)

¹Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.
²O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come. ³When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. ⁴Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. ⁵You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, ⁶who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, ⁷who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. ⁸Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy. ⁹You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. ¹¹You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. ¹²The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. ¹³The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

19-065-1-Our Providing God

praise, prayer, forgiveness, provision, Holy Spirit, renewal
 Psalm 65

We enjoy praising God, and He enjoys providing for us.

INTRODUCTION: (Text as the Scripture Reading)

–Most healthy relationships are *reciprocal* in nature. [In a good marriage, spouses happily praise each other for services rendered: *meals prepared, trash taken out, laundry washed, furniture repaired. Praise is a pleasure, not a chore.*] Being faithfully married to God is also *enjoyably reciprocal*: **HOM.idea.**

–This *marital metaphor* is uniquely Christian. In some religions, *praise* is a *duty*, not a *delight*. The gods are *appeased* rather than *enjoyed*. We use marriage terminology, not just because God does, but it *really fits our relationship with Him*. We *do* find true joy in praising God. At the same time, He tells us in Scripture that He’s pleased to be our Provider.

–*Jehovah-Jireh* is what Abraham called the spot where God provided a sacrificial ram instead of his son Isaac. (The NIV translates it for us into English– Gen 22:14, So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” Psalm 65 beautifully describes **our providing God**, exemplifying how, as *true believers*, we naturally *take pleasure in praising Him*. First of all...

- I. Praise Reveals Our Joy in God’s Presence– v.1-4**, *Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.*
- A. “*Praise awaits...God in Zion*,” which ultimately stands for His *heavenly dwelling place*. (But presently Jesus *already* indwells His *Bride, the Church*. [At weddings we celebrate the *vow-exchange*, but in our *union with Christ*, we already enjoy our “*vows*” being “*fulfilled*” here on earth.]
- B. God awaits prayers! That’s why “*all men will come*” to Him. (We’re instinctively drawn to God *to get prayers answered*, but we miss a *treasure*, if we take our answers and run, [God isn’t a slot machine: put in a *prayer*, hit the *jackpot*, and *leave!* God *wants a loving relationship* with us.]
- C. Our “transgressions” await God’s forgiveness! (When “*overwhelmed by sins*,” we *rejoice* in having them *released* through Christ’s Cross.)
- D. God’s presence awaits His people– v.4: “*Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!*” (But who are *the happy chosen?*)

1. Only those who are *thirsty* for God's presence and *come to drink it in* can *enjoy living in it*— Rev 22:17, The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" **Whoever is thirsty**, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of **the water of life**.
2. *This isn't an empty offer!* Whoever comes into God's presence, seeking to *drink* from "the water of life" in Christ, will be "*filled*."

TRANS: If these blessings **await** our enjoyment, *what are we waiting for?* Christians can't help a sin-sick world, unless we ourselves *thirst* for God's presence and *pray not just*, "O God, fill us 'with the good things of your house,'" but "Fill us with Yourself!" **He enjoys providing** that request, and we, in turn, **enjoy praising Him** for it! Next,

II. Our Praise Exalts God's True Character— v.5-7, *You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.*

- A. Indeed, our Provider is the *Maker and Preserver of creation!* (But while He's "*the hope of all the ends of the earth*," He's also a personal Savior, providing "*awesome deeds*" for our uniquely specific needs.)
- B. He's our Defender, "*armed with strength*," to support us in *spiritual battle*. (No mountain is too big to be moved by Him "*who formed the mountains*." No demonic stronghold is too strong for Him to defeat.)
- C. Because He's our Protector, we can stay *calm*, when "*the turmoil of the nations*" threatens us. (He "*who stilled the roaring of the seas*," can quiet our hearts with peace, even while storms are still raging.)

TRANS: The key to victory, whether in storms, battles or daily living, is to fill our days with praise! The best faith defense is a good praise offense. Listen to v.8, "*Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy*." Unbelievers see creation's awesome design, yet deny the obvious: that there is a Designer! This verse says even those "*living far away*" from God still "*fear*" His "*wonders*." When *sunrises* or *sunsets* call forth "*songs of joy*" from our lips, praising God's glory is a frontal assault on skepticism. It stirs up their repressed "knowledge of God". Praise confesses the truth about our providing God and about an authentic human relationship with Him. Finally,

- III. Praise Ties the Knot Between the Creator and His Creation— v.9-11**, *You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.*
- A. One service that we, as images of God, are to provide is to speak up for a speechless creation. (These last verses do just that: they voice the praise that nature herself cannot articulate.)
 - B. We aren't just spokesmen but governing servants, who function as God's representatives only by a reciprocal bond—a tie so intimate that, in both OT & NT, God uses marital language to describe it.
 - C. These verses show how God's joy in providing for us and creation has never flagged, but we know that sin has disrupted human joy in praising Him. (This psalm tells us of His willingness to water the dry land, making it *beautiful* and *fruitful* again.)
 - D. That description aptly illustrates His joy in restoring us to spiritual beauty and fruitfulness through the water of life. [I've only heard the "River of Life" song sung one way—joyfully: "*I've got a river of life flowing out of me, / makes the lame to walk and the blind to see, / opens prison doors, sets the captives free, / I've got a river of life flowing out of me...*"]

CONCLUSION:

—The living water provided by our providing God is Himself. If we are true to ourselves, we enjoy praising God. And because He is forever true to Himself, He enjoys providing for us. When our spiritual thirst is quenched in our faith union with Him, our praise is automatic and ecstatic! If that's not the case, then we need to "*taste and see that the LORD is good*." If we have tasted but have forgotten our "first love", then we need to come back and drink more deeply of His goodness.

—This psalm describes a joyous relationship with God. Dryness in the human heart precedes spiritual drought in the land. If moral revival is to come to our nation, it must begin with God's people. When churches truly overflow with joyful praise in His presence, then we'll witness the fulfillment of the prophetic metaphor we read in this psalm's last two verses: "*The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing*."