

## Psalm 68    A Psalm of David

### ***It is time for God to act on our behalf***

<sup>1</sup> It is time for God to arise and scatter His enemies. When He does, those who hate Him will see disaster coming and run for their lives. <sup>2</sup> LORD, drive them away like the wind drives smoke away, and cause them to melt like wax when it is heated. <sup>3</sup> Oh, but allow the righteous to be thrilled with Your dealings on their behalf. Yes, let them shout for joy before You. Let them be so glad that they can't help but praise You.

### ***God protects His children***

<sup>4</sup> Folks, sing praises to the name of the LORD. Sing about how He rides back and forth throughout the land of Israel, and lift Him up in praise for His watchful eye. <sup>5</sup> From His throne on high He is a father to the orphan and a protector of the widow. <sup>6</sup> He gives the lonely man a home and family, and He frees captive men and leads them into prosperity. He blesses these people, but He will not bless the rebellious man. This kind of man is left to his own devices, and he will be plagued with hurts, heartaches, and losses in abundance.

### ***God led Israel through the desert***

<sup>7</sup> When Israel left Egypt, God marched before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He led them every step of the way as they marched toward the promised land. Stop and think, do you realize the significance of His presence? He was leader, guide, and provider. He was all they needed.

### ***God was there to provide their needs***

<sup>8-9</sup> What were some of things the God of Israel did for His people Israel? At His presence the earth shook. In fact, Mount Sinai itself shook at His presence. God confirmed His covenant with Israel by causing rain to literally pour down upon the people providing the water they would need in that otherwise barren land. (Note: I always wondered how they got their water all of those years wandering in the wilderness.)

### ***God gave them the victory in the fight for Canaan***

<sup>10-11</sup> You gave the command, and Your people Israel went in and settled the land. Then You provided good things for those poor people. A large number of the women proclaimed the good news of their deliverance, and they told about how God enabled them to take possession of their new land. <sup>12</sup> They said, "Kings with their armies fled before the advancing armies of Israel, and the women at home divided the spoil from the cities Israel had conquered."

### ***God gave them rest when needed***

<sup>13</sup> When Israel's advancing armies stopped to lie down between battles, the people of Israel saw them as beautiful as a dove with silver wings and as valuable as gold<sup>1</sup>.  
<sup>14</sup> It was winter when Almighty God scattered the kings as Israel advanced. In fact, it was snowing.

### ***Many nations envy Jerusalem***

<sup>15-16</sup> The many mountain peaks of Bashan look with envy upon the mount of Jerusalem. This is where the temple of God is located and where God has chosen to abide. Without doubt God will dwell there forever.

### ***God provided salvation through Jesus Christ***

<sup>17</sup> There were twenty thousand chariots of God being driven by angels<sup>2</sup>. Yes, there were thousands upon thousands of them, and the LORD is among them in holiness just like He was at Mount Sinai. <sup>18</sup> After Christ's resurrection and before His ascension He took captive those saints whose souls had been captive in Hades and whose bodies were captive in the grave. They followed Him up into heaven like the train of a bride's gown. Think about it. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did when He ascended into heaven. Having conquered sin, He has given men the gift of the Holy Spirit who will call even rebellious men to Christ so that He may dwell in their heart. <sup>19</sup> Blessed be the LORD Jesus. He is the God of our salvation, and He pours out one benefit after another upon us every day.

Now, stop what you are doing, and ponder the greatness of our God, Jesus Christ. He is our savior, and He is the greatest.

### ***God is the One who affects our deliverance***

<sup>20</sup> We are convinced that God is a God of deliverance, and He alone has the ability to rescue a man or a nation from what appears to be certain destruction. <sup>21</sup> It is certain that God will crush the head of His enemies, those whose arrogant pride drives them to continually commit one sin after another. <sup>22-23</sup> In fact, the LORD said,

"Israel, at the time of My choosing I will bring all of My enemies before you from every place on the inhabited earth, and you will slaughter them so that your sandals will become thoroughly bloody and your dogs will drink their fill of the blood of the dead".

### ***God was glorified as the ark was brought into the temple***

<sup>24</sup> My God and my King, Your people have seen Your procession into the temple as the ark was being carried through the streets and into the Holy of Holies. <sup>25</sup> Singers in the front raised their voices, musicians playing their instruments brought up the rear,

and young women with tambourines in the middle all took part in the procession.  
<sup>26</sup> Every one of God's people should bless the LORD who gushes forth<sup>3</sup> blessings upon His people. <sup>27</sup> For Israel, this should include the smaller tribe of Benjamin (this was Saul's tribe, therefore it had been a ruling tribe), the ruling members of the tribe of Judah, the leaders of Zebulon, and the leaders of Naphtali.<sup>4</sup> <sup>28</sup> Israel, your God has decreed that you should be a people of strength. He has acted on your behalf, so show yourself strong. <sup>29</sup> People of other nations will bring gifts to you because of the power and majesty emanating from God's presence in the temple.

### ***God, rebuke Egypt, and they will serve You***

<sup>30</sup> LORD, rebuke the rulers of Egypt who act like a heard of bulls. They are nothing more than wild bests. They plunder the people of other nations by conquering them in war. <sup>31</sup> Once You have rebuked the envoys of rulers from Egypt and Ethiopia, they will come running to Jerusalem with outstretched hands presenting offerings to God. <sup>32</sup> All nations of the earth, sing praises to the God of gods. Yes, sing praises to the LORD.

Now, stop what you are doing, and ponder the greatness of our God, Jesus Christ. He is our savior and LORD, and He deserves our highest praise.

### ***God is the ruler over everyone and everything***

<sup>33</sup> Behold, God speaks with a mighty voice. He sits on His throne in the highest heaven ruling the universe, and He has been there since the beginning of the beginning. <sup>34</sup> Realize God's great strength, and tell Him so. After all, His majesty and splendor are over His people Israel, and His strength can be seen in the thunderstorms. <sup>35</sup> LORD, You were awesome when You occupied the temple, but now You dwell in our hearts by faith. The God of Israel gives strength and power to all of His children. Blessed be God forever.

<sup>1</sup> Commentators do not agree on what this verse means.

<sup>2</sup> Steveson, Peter A., Psalms, © Copyright BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, pg. 257

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pg. 259

<sup>4</sup> bid.