

# “Psalms: Week 7”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 - MICHAEL BOWERS



## Summary - “Psalms: Praise and Worship”

This week, our Psalm (Psalm 66) is an invitation. An invitation to worship, an invitation to come and see what God has done, and an invitation to listen and share what God has done and is doing. It's the invitation to allow worship to lead us to witness. Worship is an invitation for followers of Christ to respond to what God says, has done, and is doing with all of our hearts, souls, and minds. We ask you this week, to consider Psalm 66 as an invitation from God, through the Psalms, to worship, witness, and wonder. Because the Psalms are full of invitations, as was Jesus, and ultimately, so is the hope we have in the life/death/resurrection of Jesus: an invitation to come and worship. Worship leads to witness. Come and hear what the Psalmist says. He is continually proclaiming the greatness of God. He declares that God has listened to his prayers and God's steadfast love has endured. So sing and shout with your lips and surrender your life to him. Spend your life spreading God's praise among the peoples of the earth.

## Scripture - Psalm 66 “God’s Awesome Sovereignty In Our Lives”

*Shout for joy to God, all the earth; 2 sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. 4 All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.” (Selah) 5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. 6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, 7 who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations – let not the rebellious exalt themselves. (Selah) 8 Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, 9 who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. 10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. 11 You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; 12 you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance. 13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, 14 that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. 15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. (Selah) 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. 17 I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. 18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. 19 But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!*

## Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

## Further Scripture Study

Isaiah 43:1b-3a; Psalm 57:8; Psalm 66; John 11:25-26; Acts 4:33; Ephesians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:16

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

### Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

### Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

# Key Thoughts

Based upon last week's study of Psalm 57 and the call to "Awake my glory" or to "Wake Up!"

- Worship with our lives
- Ask and receive forgiveness - (Psalm 32)
- Keeep our hearts clean before the Lord - (1 John 1:9) God is faithful to forgive.
- Eyes open to see and hear (yes, listen with your eyes.) - (1 Sam. 22 - you are not alone in your season of life. Look around you!)
- Understand the needs of those God brings into your life
- Pray & Praise often

When we come together and lift our voices, we are carrying out a command from God - to worship through song, singing, and announcing as this Psalm says: God, you are awesome, you are powerful! And we are continuing a practice established by the children of God and in the New Testament church. (Psalm 66:1-4)

The Psalmist says, shout for joy, but also sing the glory of his name. Shouts and singing in worship are not ingredients we have made up in church; instead, they are commands and instructions from God. Sing of God's glory. Be joyful. Be amazed. Shout for joy.

We are not to express ourselves in shouts to draw attention to ourselves or to distract from worshipping God for his greatness.

We don't have an issue with singing or shouting. I would contend that most days, we have spiritual amnesia. Spiritual amnesia is the tendency to forget or disregard significant spiritual moments. What's the antidote for such severe spiritual amnesia? Psalm 66 begins with the reminder: Joy and awe-filled worship are ways to remember what God has done! (Psalm 66:3-4)

When we gather together in joy-filled worship and remember, talk, preach, teach, and share stories in the hallways and classrooms, then we are celebrating and giving praise to God, which is one antidote or cure to spiritual amnesia. (see also Ephesians 5:19-21 & Colossian 3:16)

When we disengage from congregational worship, we are prone to experience spiritual amnesia. This time on Sunday should be a time that we desire to attend, where we expect reminders from God's word of His moving on our behalf and for our salvation.

Come and see God's moving to shape us in all seasons of life. The writer is reminding us, the readers, of how God has moved in and through God's children, but also, as we saw in the early Psalms, how God moves daily in his creation. Psalm (66:5-12)



# Key Thoughts

We are invited to come and see how God offers safety and security. (vs.9-12) But we are reminded of God's testing, our suffering, and even our affliction. Through it all, God is refining us.

The Psalmist says of God things that can be unsettling for many of us at various moments in our lives.

- You have kept us safe
- You have given us life
- You have allowed us to be tested
- You are refining us like silver. Silver is refined by heating it so the imperfections rise to the top of the melted silver, and the imperfection is removed, leaving a purer silver product.
- You have placed us into the net without a lot of options.
- You have placed affliction on our backs. (We used to walk in freedom and ease with no burdens.)
- (Remember, this is a Psalm of praise for the greatness of God.
- You have allowed the enemy to ride over us and feel the sting of defeat.
- He continues, we have gone through fire and water and have not been consumed.
- The emphasis is on what God has brought them through. The prophet Isaiah says it this way.

In these moments of testing, suffering, and even affliction we must also remember that God is with us (Isaiah 43:1b-3a)

Psalm 66:12 ends with, "...yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance." The psalmist basically says, God, I trust you, I believe you to be sovereign, overall and in all, and if you are not Lord over all, then you are not Lord at all.

When the Psalmist invites others to come and see what God has done, he does not give them the social media highlight. Instead, he lays it all out and says I have trusted the Lord in all these seasons.

Our trials and suffering are megaphones for the glory and grace of God to be proclaimed.

"We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." ~C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

"God will take us where we don't want to go to produce in us what we couldn't achieve on our own. It's called uncomfortable grace." ~ Paul David Tripp

The Psalmist says come and see God's greatness in and through all life's seasons. Jesus invites others into his life to see HIM! To experience life and the conquering of sin and death. God is still inviting us to come and see, calling and leading us to invite others into our lives to come and see lives that have been radically changed by a God worthy of our singing, shouting, and witnessing (telling others how God has saved us and moved in/through us).



# Key Thoughts

Though our trials and suffering are megaphones for the glory and grace of God to be proclaimed, we must also grasp that on the other side of the invitation to come and see, is the call to continually surrender. (Psalm 66:13-15)

We must not surrender only once, but often to worship, sing, shout, and announce what God has done and is doing. We must surrender and sacrifice our longings and desires for His purposes.

Worship leads to witness. Come and hear what the Psalmist says. He is continually proclaiming the greatness of God. He declares that God has listened to his prayers and God's steadfast love has endured. (Psalm 66:16-20)

Spend your life spreading God's praise among the peoples of the earth. Say to the people you live around, the people you work with, and the peoples of the world, "Sing about the glory of his name; make his praise glorious" (v. 2). Say to your neighbors and say to the nations, "Come and see the wonders of God; his movements are awe-inspiring. Come and listen, all who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me" (vv. 5,16). Come and see, continually surrender, come and listen!

# Reflect & Respond

When is the last time that you shouted with joy, praise, passion, or excitement for something? Share an example of this with the group.

What does worship look like in your life? Would you say that you "sing to the glory of his name", or, do you "give to him glorious praise"? Do you recognize the awesome deeds that God has done in your life? (Psalm 66:1-4)

Does your worship lead to witness? Does it do so only when things are going well or does it also lead to witness in the seasons of doubt, struggle, pain, suffering, etc.? (Psalm 66:5-12)

As you read through Psalm 66, what attributes or characteristics do you see regarding God? How do these give you hope and trust in His sovereignty (supreme power) during the hard seasons of life?

In Psalm 66:13-15 we see a response of worship, thankfulness, gratitude, and perhaps even possible repentance as the Psalmist praises God for the seasons of testing that God has brought him through. How do you praise and show gratitude to God after a season of testing, suffering, or struggle?

If you were to invite someone to come and see your daily life, where would it lead them? What would it reveal to them about God? What would it reveal to them about you (your personal walk with God, your marriage, your family, your idols, your sin)?

Are you allowing your life, the situations that God has brought you through (both good and bad) to be a testimony to others? Are you willing to say, "come and hear and I will tell what He has done for my soul"? (Psalm 66:16-20)