

## HOW GOD SHOWS HE'S IN CONTROL (Psalm 66)

**Psalm 66**----- To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm.

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. <sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. <sup>4</sup> All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah <sup>5</sup> **Come and** see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men. <sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. <sup>7</sup> He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah <sup>8</sup> Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, <sup>9</sup> **Who keeps our soul** among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved. <sup>10</sup> For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. <sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. <sup>12</sup> You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment. <sup>13</sup> **I will go into** Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, <sup>14</sup> Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. <sup>15</sup> I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah <sup>16</sup> **Come and hear**, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. <sup>17</sup> **I cried to Him** with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. <sup>18</sup> If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. <sup>19</sup> But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. <sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

**Illus:** If it wasn't for God's intervention in my life when I was 18, I probably wouldn't be alive. (Share testimony)

When I look back I can see how God was in control of my life, even when I was out of control.

**Title:** How God Shows He's In Control!

(Prayer)

**Around the year 2005**, researchers went door-to-door in England asking persons about their belief in God. One of their questions: "**Do you believe in a God who intervenes in human history, who changes the course of affairs, who performs miracles, etc.?**" When published, their study took its title from the response of one man who was seen as rather typical of those who responded. He answered, "**No, I don't believe in that God; I believe in the ordinary God.**"

When you read Psalm 66, it is clear that the unnamed person who wrote it DID NOT believe in "the ordinary God." In fact, he is so moved by the greatness of God that he begins by calling every nation on earth to join the people of Israel in a time of praise and worship. Israel is telling the nations around them that if they would take a look at what God has done for Israel, they would praise Him too! **Notice what Israel** (through the writer of Psalm 66) says to the entire earth:

- V. 1: **Make** a joyful shout to God, all the earth!
- V. 2: **Sing** out the honor of His name...
- V. 2: **Make** His praise glorious...

- V. 3: **Say** to God, “How awesome are Your works!  
 V. 5: **Come** and **see** the works of God...  
 V. 8: Oh, **bless** our God, you peoples!  
 V. 8: And **make** the voice of His praise to be heard...

This is a kind of evangelism that Israel is doing. Israel is saying: “*Listen up nations of the earth...if you would just look at what our amazing God has done for us, you would believe He is the one true God and worship Him like we do!*”

One time a man asked a professor about the best argument he had that the Bible is true. The professor replied, “*That’s easy. Israel.*”

### **God shows He is in control through the amazing ways He delivers His people in their time of trouble (66:1-12).**

God’s protection of Israel throughout history illustrates His sovereignty—His absolute and total control over all that takes place in the universe. For 1000’s of years, God’s enemies have desired to wipe Israel off the face of the map. But God has not allowed it. He has protected His chosen people.

Notice...

- V. 3:** Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. <sup>4</sup> All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.”
- V. 5:** He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men. <sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot.  
*[God delivers in MANY ways...but the Exodus was one of the greatest]*
- V. 7:** He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations;  
*[God sees all attempts to destroy Israel or thwart His plans]*
- V. 9:** [He] keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.
- V. 12:** You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

In vv. 10-12, God **tested** Israel, **refined** them, laid **affliction** on their backs and allowed people to run roughshod over them. God allowed the nation to go through the proverbial “fire and flood.” But what did He do in the end?

**V. 12:** “But you brought us out to rich fulfillment.”

The purpose of the nations around Israel was to *destroy* them, but God in His sovereignty used their oppression to *purify* Israel.

God uses trouble in our lives to bring about good and that we might shout His praises to the world around us of what a great deliverer He is!

Paul said:

**Romans 8:18**-----<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Professor Dave Osbourne of Denver Seminary said this about trials:

"Too often we try to use God to change our circumstances, while He is using our circumstances to change us."

God shows He is in control through the amazing ways He delivers His people in their time of trouble.

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Now, when God delivers us, what kind of response is appropriate?  
What should we be doing?

We should do what God's OT saints did. We see this in vv. 13-20.

We could go into all the details here, but basically, these verses teach us that when God gives us an answer to prayer, or when God does something for us that would have been impossible for us to do, the appropriate thing to do is tp...

### **(1) Be grateful to Him!**

In vv. 13-15, the writer of this Psalm offered expensive offerings to show His appreciation to God and then in v. 16, he says:

**Psalm 66:16-20** (NET)-----Come! Listen, all you who are loyal to God! **I will declare what he has done for me.** <sup>17</sup> I cried out to him for help and praised him with my tongue. <sup>18</sup> If I had harbored sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. <sup>19</sup> However, **God heard**; he listened to my prayer. <sup>20</sup> God deserves praise, for **he did not reject my prayer** or abandon his love for me!

(Comments)

### **(2) Share what He has done for us with others**

The OT saints spoke over and over of how God saved from the bondage of slavery.

As NT saints, we have the privilege of sharing with others how God saved us from the bondage of sin through Christ's death and our faith in Him for eternal life!

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(Lord's Supper)