

SBC – April 6, 2025
Psalm 65 (NKJV)
“God’s Abundant Provision”

Psalm 65 (NKJV)
To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.

To the Chief Musician indicates that David intended for this Psalm to be used in corporate worship. The terminology “A Psalm of David. A Song” is perhaps David’s way of saying this is a poetic Psalm intended to be sung.

We don’t know the exact occasion for the Psalm but it fits well with celebrating an abundant harvest. Some, therefore, suggest that Feast of Tabernacles in the fall season may be in view.

There are various themes related to God’s provision that come through in the Psalm. It has therefore been called a Restoration Psalm, a Thanksgiving Psalm, a Harvest Psalm, a Celebration Psalm, a Wisdom Psalm, a Prophetic Psalm, and a Creation Psalm.

We see here that God hears prayer, atones for sin, and abundantly provides. We see Him working both miraculously and providentially. This Psalm acknowledges our total dependence on God for both spiritual and material blessings and therefore God is to be praised.

Slide # 1

Psalm 65

“God’s Abundant Provision”

- vv. 1-3 Praise Awaits God in Zion
- v. 4 Blessing in the Courts of God
- vv. 5-8 Awesome Deeds of God’s Power
- vv. 9-13 God’s Abundant Provision

1 Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; And to You the vow shall be performed.

The word “awaiting” could be translated “is silent before”. The NASB translates this “There will be silence before Thee”.

The idea is that this is the anticipation of worship when God’s people will pay their vows in worship in Zion (Jerusalem).

God's people are pictured as waiting with praise for God. When God comes He will be met there with praise. Because of this and the language of verse 2 some think this anticipates the Second Coming and worship in the kingdom.

When God's ancient people are restored to Him, praise will await Him there in the silence of awe and reverence. – **William MacDonald**

Often, vows were fulfilled in the form of "**thank offerings**," reflecting on and worshiping God for how He had answered prayer (cf. Ps. 22:25; 50:14).

2 O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come.

The worship of PRAISE here relates to answered prayer. What a wonderful description of God: "O You who hear prayer". Indeed, our God is a prayer-answering God!

The phrase "To You all flesh will come" ultimately looks forward to the kingdom when the whole world will assemble in Jerusalem for worship (cf. Zech. 14:16-19).

Slide # 2

Isaiah 2:2 (NKJV)

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; **And all nations shall flow to it.**

3 Iniquities prevail against me; As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them.

Iniquities (Heb. avon) refers to moral perversion or crookedness. David (seemingly speaking for humanity) says iniquities prevail against me. We are all guilty. Sin prevails – it has its way with us (cf. Rom. 3:23).

Transgressions (Heb. pasha) denote acts of rebellion and defiance that disobey God.

"Our sins would, but for grace, prevail against us in the court of divine justice, in the court of conscience, and in the battle of life."

- **Charles Spurgeon**

But David recognizes God's provision of atonement for them! This is the KEY idea that undergirds all the other blessings that flow from it as seen in the rest of the chapter.

The word "atonement" is found three times in the Psalms (Ps. 65:3; 78:38; 79:9). It is the idea of a covering for sin. The sacrificial system in the OT God provided a temporary covering for sin so that people might have fellowship with Him. However, actual forgiveness of sin awaited the sacrifice of Christ that must be applied by repentant faith.

Slide # 3

Hebrews 10:3–4 (NKJV)

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is **not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)

10 By that will we have been sanctified **through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

I often say the OT saints were saved on credit. Now God was good for it. His Word made it clear provision was coming and it did. When John the Baptist (the forerunner of Christ) showed up on the scene he introduced Jesus in this way.

Slide #4

John 1:29 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,

"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

The idea of "atonement" is forgiveness. Everything begins here! Without forgiveness we don't have anything before God.

Slide # 5

Psalms 130:3–4 (NKJV)

3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is **forgiveness** with You, That You may be feared.

Slide # 6

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:12–13 (NKJV)

12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

God's provision of forgiveness is through the blood sacrifice of Christ and we enter into the good of it by trusting – by faith – by believing. Trust, faith, and belief are all used interchangeably.

4 Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple.

It is because of God's forgiveness that we can approach Him in worship.

In the connection between God and man, David knew that God was the cause of the connection. The connection begins when God chooses and then causes a man or a woman to come to Him.

– **David Guzik**

Blessed or Happy is the man that God so chooses and causes to approach Him that he might enjoy the presence of God in His courts. David used the general word "courts" where all God's people were welcome to approach.

David is thinking of God's courts, house, and holy temple in terms of the presence of God. It is in the presence of God that David says we shall be satisfied with God's goodness. Goodness here has the idea of spiritual refreshment!

"The goodness of Your house" suggests the imagery of God being a host for His people. As a guest in God's house, they are blessed with that which satisfies all desires."

Blessed is the person who knows God's forgiveness, and satisfied is the person who worshipfully dwells in God's presence. David often expresses a desire to live in the presence of God (Ps. 27:4-5). To David there was no greater blessing!

Note: "Realize that the word temple was sometimes used to describe the tabernacle before Solomon's temple was erected (1 Sam. 1:9; 3:3; 2 Sam. 22:7)." – **William MacDonald**

5 By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas;

As God's people, one of the great privileges we have is prayer and watching God do mighty things as we pray. And notice that God always answers in accord with righteousness – that is what is right.

Throughout the entire world, God has His people who are praying and seeing God do awesome things. And because of answered prayer, God's people trust (or have confidence) in Him.

6 Who established the mountains by His strength, Being clothed with power;

The mountains ever serve as an illustration of God's great power. God is a God of power. God works powerfully as we pray.

7 You who still the noise of the seas, The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.

Not only is God's power exhibited in the mountains, but also in the fact that God stills the noise of the seas and their waves.

Slide # 7



This verse is very clear that it is GOD who stills the raging seas and their waves.

Slide # 8

Psalm 107:25–29 (NKJV)

25 For He **commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.**

26 They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

28 Then they **cry out to the LORD in their trouble,** And He brings them out of their distresses.

29 **He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.**

Now fast forward to the ministry of Christ. Christ's miracles were SIGNS indicating WHO He was as the Divine Messiah.

Slide # 9

Mark 4:39–41 (NKJV)

39 Then **He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.**

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "**Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!**"

Many years ago as I preparing to teach through this section in Mark I had a cultist call me who didn't believe that Jesus is God. I took him to this chapter and I asked him: "***Who is it that controls the weather? Who controls the waves and the sea?***" He refused to answer that question. I was ready to take him to the Psalms, where repeatedly it says God does this.

By the way: Only Jesus did miracles over nature. The apostles were also allowed to do miracles over sickness and demons, but they never did miracles over nature. Only Jesus did that. That is God's territory and His alone!

And then building on God controlling the seas, David says that He also stills the “tumult of the peoples.” In the Bible, the nations of the world are often compared to the restless and chaotic sea (cf. Isa. 17:12, 13; 60:5; Dan. 7:2, 2, Rev. 13:1; 17:15).

Again, we think this ultimately looks forward to the kingdom when the Lord will put down all roiling turmoil of the nations and there will be true peace at last. God is able to do that – no one else (cf. Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:3-5).

8 They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.

The idea here is that people all over the world stand in awe at God’s wonders in the heavens. Who doesn’t marvel at a sunrise or a sunset?

The word “signs” here is the exact same word used in Genesis 1:14.

Slide # 10

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV)

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

Psalm 19:1 (NKJV)

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

The outgoings of the morning (sunrise) and the outgoings of the evening (sunset) metaphorically shout JOY! Every day, the painting at sunrise and at sunset is different but always glorious beyond description.

God’s handiwork in nature, everywhere you look is awesome!

9 You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it.

God in His great sovereignty waters the earth. As someone has said, “*It would be very easy for God to starve us all.*” He is in charge of the weather. He is in charge of the rain. Abundant rain prevents drought and starvation. This is God’s doing. He prepares the rain and provides the grain.

The “river of God” in this context refers to the remarkable machine known as the hydrologic cycle, which continually provides water for the life of earth. – **Henry Morris**

Slide # 11

Ecclesiastes 1:7 (NKJV)

7 All the rivers **run into the sea**, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, **There they return again**.

10 You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.

In Bible times furrows were long narrow trenches made in the ground by a plow. The timely rains would soften these furrows (trenches) and ridges making the land workable for planting. Thus, God softens the land with showers and blesses it with growth.

11 You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.

“A full and *plentiful harvest* is the *crown* of the year; and this springs from the unmerited *goodness* of God. – **Edward Clarke**

“***Your paths drip with abundance***” is metaphorical language which depicts a cart path for a farm wagon which is dropping its overflow all along the path. The Lord blesses with an ABUNDANT HARVEST! That is the picture!

To round out the Psalm David uses metaphorical language to depict the great blessings of God bestowed on us through nature and presents nature itself as rejoicing in the provision of God.

12 They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on every side.

The pastures in the wilderness are pictured as dripping (or overflowing) with abundance. And the little hills are pictured as rejoicing all around.

The metaphor appears to be taken from the frisking of lambs, bounding of kids, and dancing of shepherds and shepherdesses, in the joy-inspiring summer season. – **Edward Clarke**

The hills are pictured as alive with JOY!

13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing.

As David looked out over the countryside, he saw pastures covered with livestock and valleys full of grain. And it seemed as though even creation itself was shouting for joy and singing to the glory of God.

“The voice of nature is articulate to God; it is not only a shout, but a song.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

How abundant is God’s provision in the realm of nature!

Slide # 12

Acts 14:17 (NKJV)

17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

God’s abundant provision is all-encompassing. Most importantly, it is forgiveness and the spiritual blessings we enjoy. But building on that we consistently see the abundance of His provision in the physical realm as well.

Praise God for all He has done and for all that He continually does for us!
And the very best is yet to be!

Indeed, as David said!

Psalm 65:1 (NKJV)

1 Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion...

We have much for which to praise God, and we shall for all eternity be praising Him for the superabundance of His provision – what Paul in the NT calls “the exceeding riches of His grace” (Eph. 2:7).

He is a GOOD God!
He is a GREAT God!
And He is GREATLY to be praised!