

Psalm 64-67: Factor In God, Deal With Sin, Praise Him.

Psalm 64:

1-2: David introduced this Psalm with a cry of complaint to God. Crying that a crowd of evildoers had conspired against him, he told God he needed His protection.

3-4: David described how the wicked prepare their attack on the innocent. He compared their speech to swords and arrows - weapons that pierce and destroy.

5-6: Moreover, the wicked encouraged each other in their plans to do injustice. They thought they had a perfect crime, assuming they could sin without being discovered. This, David concluded, shows how cunning a human heart can be.

7-8: David predicted that God would intervene and strike them. They might be cunning but God will shoot them with arrows.

9-10: Everyone who would see them would scorn them for their evil plans. Moreover, seeing the destruction of the wicked, people would fear the LORD and tell of His works. God's judgment would have a lasting effect on people. As for the righteous, they will have reason to rejoice, to renew their trust in Him as their Refuge, and to praise Him.

David prayed for protection from those who conspired against him. He then described their malicious plans against the righteous. He was convinced that God would turn these schemes on the wicked themselves.

Psalm 65:

1-4: The Psalmist expressed his conviction that when God atones for sin He blesses abundantly. The occasion for the prayer was apparently their overwhelming sins, but God atoned for their transgressions. One who thereby is brought near to the presence of the Lord will experience happiness and satisfaction. Atonement for sin made possible the praise of the people and their entrance on festival days into the courts of the tabernacle.

5-8: The Psalmist was confident that God answers prayer; He is the hope of people in the farthest regions of the earth.

9-13: The Psalmist was convinced that Israel would have an abundantly good year when God poured out His blessings on the land. God's rain showers prepare the land for produce; God's blessing produces an abundant harvest; God causes uncultivated areas to be enriched with grass. In a word, the flocks and grain flourish under His blessing.

The Psalmist concluded that all of nature shouts for joy, that is, abundant fruitfulness testifies to God's blessing.

It is a song of harvest blessing in celebration of God's goodness to His people. In this "song" David declared that God, who hears prayers, atones for sin, a provision that results in God's bounty. David also announced that God uses His supernatural power to help His people. Based on these displays of God's good

pleasure, the songwriter anticipated God's blessing on the land, which would bring the people prosperity.

Psalm 66:

1-4: All the earth, that is, everyone on it, was urged to praise the Lord by shouting, singing, and speaking. They were encouraged to be jubilant because of His awesome works, which resulted in His enemies cringing before His great... power.

5-7: The Psalmist then called on the nations to see that God's awesome... works on behalf of man demonstrate His sovereignty. Israel's crossing the Red Sea and the Jordan River were notable acts of God's power of deliverance. Therefore people should realize that He rules forever by His power, putting down rebels and delivering His people.

8-9: Israel then called on the peoples of the earth to bless God because by these and other awesome deeds He had preserved them.

10-12: The nation acknowledged that God had tested them with all kinds of burdens and oppressions, but finally brought them to the place of abundant blessing. This acknowledged that it was God who led them all the way and delivered them.

13-15: He addressed God and the congregation. He would go to God's Tabernacle/Temple and offer burnt offerings. This would fulfil a vow he made when he cried out of distress (trouble).

16-20: Here he addressed the congregation in praise to God. He told them that God responded to his prayer and God delivered him. However, it would not have happened that way if he had clung to sin. But God *did* listen and answer his prayer. The point is clear: God's people, should purify their hearts and pray to Him.

This Psalm of thanksgiving may have been written to celebrate a festive occasion. In the Psalm the nation acknowledged God's deliverance and called on the nations to join her in praising the Lord.

Psalm 67:

The Psalmist now called on the people to praise God for His righteous judgments so that they might enjoy His bounty.

1-2: The writer asked for God's merciful dealings by using part of the priestly blessing (**Numbers 6:24-26**). God's making His face shine on them refers to divine favour. The purpose of this prayer is that God's saving ways would be known throughout the world. For if God saved them, others would hear of it.

3-7: The Psalmist called on people to praise...God with joy because He rules justly. He called on them to praise...God so that He in turn would bless them by giving them a bountiful harvest. Recognizing God's blessings encourages people to fear and worship Him.