



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS: SONGS FOR LIFE TOGETHER •

GOD IS GRACIOUS, GREAT, AND GOOD • PSALM 65:1-13 •

6/11/2023

MAIN POINT

We should worship God for His grace, His greatness, and His goodness.

INTRODUCTION

What makes a person great by the world's definition?

How is this often too small a definition of greatness?

The world often defines greatness according to achievement. In the sports world, greatness is defined by stats and championships won. Sports fans continually debate who is the greatest of all time. Is it Michael Jordan or Lebron James? Is it Tom Brady or Joe Montana? No matter where these debates end, it is clear that this greatness is

confined to one area of a person's life. While these achievements can be impressive, they don't come close to the greatness of God, who is truly great in all ways and to a degree beyond anything humans can reach. Today we will consider God's grace to us, His greatness, and His goodness that lead us to worship.

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 65:1-4.

What aspects of God's grace are referenced in these verses?

How have we experienced God's grace most fully in Christ?

How do we continually experience God's grace in His presence?

David praised God for His grace. God had shown His grace in making a way of atonement for the sins of the people. In the time of this psalm, this atonement would have been made by the sacrifice of an animal that would give its life as payment for the sins of a person or group of people. These sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus, who would come to earth, live perfectly before God, and pay the final sacrifice for the sins of man through His death on the cross. This is the fullest expression of God's grace to us.

We continually experience God's grace as we are welcomed into His presence through the finished work of Christ on our behalf. David praised God for His grace in drawing Israel to Himself as His people. All who are in Christ experience this blessing today.

READ PSALM 65:5-8.

What examples of God's greatness did David give in these verses?

How does the greatness of God far surpass that of any person?

How are we often guilty of being blind to the greatness of God?

David named God's wondrous deeds throughout the earth. While we may be impressed with some people, there is no one who compares to God. Only God has the power to uphold the mountains and still the raging seas. Not only does He have sovereignty over all of nature, but also over all people. We can find great comfort in the fact that nothing in the universe takes place outside the control of God.

Without intention, we can easily be blinded to the greatness of God. By ourselves, we will continually look inward at ourselves or to others to find greatness. Further, we are prone to continual distraction by our daily circumstances. We should take purposeful time to remember and worship God for His greatness. We must rely on His Holy Spirit to give us a right ordering of our attention and affection on a daily basis.

READ PSALM 65:9-13.

What examples of God's goodness did David give in these verses?

How have you experienced God's abundant goodness through His daily blessings in your life?

God has poured out His goodness in abundance. Not only has He sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sin, but also He blesses us daily in our lives. David named

examples of God's goodness, including His provision for the land, the beauty of His creation, and the abundant harvests He brings about. God displays His goodness in the generosity of His blessings to all people on the earth, even those who continually reject Him. For those who belong to Him, we should worship Him as we continually recognize His goodness that has been lavishly poured out on the earth.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Where have you recently recognized God's grace, greatness, and goodness in your life?

How might you point these things out to encourage others around you?

How do God's greatness and goodness in the world give opportunity to point others to His grace in Jesus?

PRAYER

Pray and thank God for His grace, greatness, and goodness to us. Ask Him for a greater recognition of these aspects of His character in your life, and a greater response of worship as you recognize them.

COMMENTARY

65:1. David introduced this psalm with a declaration of praise to God, the central theme that runs throughout this song. Praise awaited God in Zion, the city of God, or Jerusalem, the place where God's people gathered for worship. In this praise song, David acknowledged that their vows or promises made to God in an earlier time of need would be fulfilled. Perhaps it was a vow made by farmers, a promise to bless God when the harvest was gathered.

65:2. David addressed God with these words: O you who hear prayer. This set God apart from the idols of the pagan nations—gods who were deaf. He acknowledged that all people would come to him. Prophetically, this statement looked ahead to the future millennial kingdom when all flesh would come to worship the Lord (cp. Zech. 14:16-19).

65:3. The primary blessing for which David offered praise was God's forgiving grace. Looking back at their past disobedience, he declared, When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. He was referring to their sinful acts of moral anarchy against God's law. Graciously and kindly, God removed their sin and stopped the consequences of their sin.

65:4. The phrase Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts is a tender reference to Israel as God's chosen people. These people, God's chosen ones, were selected by sovereign grace to be a royal priesthood (Exod. 19:6) who enjoyed God's presence. Speaking on behalf of the entire nation, David acknowledged, We are filled with the good things of your house. Great spiritual blessings flowed from being in God's presence. These blessings would include a deeper knowledge and enjoyment of God, divine peace, and abundant grace.

65:5. David progressed in his praise to another dimension of God's blessings—his providential sovereignty that brings order to the world. God performs awesome deeds of righteousness in all the ends of the earth, even to the farthest seas. This distinguished God our Savior from the local, heathen idols who worked only in one region. God works in all the earth, and he alone is the hope of all people.

65:6-7. God formed the mountains out of nothing, but he also controls all that he created, having stilled the roaring of the seas and their waves. In addition, God calms

the chaotic turmoil of the nations. His sovereignty rules over all, over inanimate objects and living beings, over believers and unbelievers alike.

65:8. David pointed out that those living far away in a pagan land would fear God's wonders. This referred to God's saving acts on behalf of his people that produced fear and amazement even in those who did not know him. The phrase Where morning dawns and evening fades means either "all day long" or "those nations in the east where the sun rises and those peoples in the west where the sun sets." Either way, God calls forth songs of joy from all people at all times. This manifestation to all people did not occur in David's day. The psalm looks forward to the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8) and ultimately to the millennial reign of Christ (Rev. 20).

65:9-10. This final section of praise focuses upon the goodness of God, specifically his bountiful provision in the promised land. David acknowledged that God cared for the land, meaning Palestine; he watered it with streams; and he enriched it with grain. All this occurred because God had ordained it. He even sent the showers, or gentle rains, to bless the crops with abundant harvests.

65:11-13. Carts, or farm wagons, overflowed because they could not contain the bountiful harvest. God's blessing even extended to the grasslands of the desert, to the hills, resulting in gladness to the meadows with its flocks, and to the valleys with its grain. Because of those many expressions of God's goodness, his people shouted for joy and sang. God is an overflowing source of blessing to his people.