

Reading the Psalms & Proverbs

Encouragement & Blessing

Week 4

Psalm 68

Psalm 68 is a psalm of David, written most probably on the occasion of moving the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Obed-edom to the tabernacle in Jerusalem. It is a psalm of God's triumph over His enemies and His blessings to His people. He brings judgment on those who oppose Him but takes gifts to those who love Him. In this psalm great encouragement can be found for all who put their trust in the Lord.

I. **Delightful Words of Encouragement to Those Who Are His People (vv. 1-6)**

- A. God will utterly defeat and put to flight His enemies (vv. 1-2)
- B. The righteous are exhorted to sing praises to Him with gladness (vv. 3-4)
- C. Encouragement and promises to the widows and orphans (v. 5)
- D. Tender care for the lonely and blessing to those in bondage (v. 6)

II. **The Great Victory of God and Blessing Upon His Chosen Land (vv. 7-18)**

In this central passage David remembers how God brought His people out of the land of Egypt and drove out the wicked people of the Promised Land of Caanan.

- A. A poetic remembrance of the exodus from Egypt (7), the giving of the Law (8), the gracious provision of manna and water (9), God's care of the poor and the joy of the women (10-11)
- B. The armies of Israel are blessed with great victory while those who wait at home are blessed with the spoils of battle (12), and when He visits His people He is like a gentle dove of great beauty
- C. Jerusalem and the promised land Israel is His home wherein He dwells in power and great glory (13-17)

III. **The Glory of God and His Gifts to His People (A Prophetic Glimpse) (vv. 18-35)**

- A. A preview of the resurrected glory of the Messiah (18)
- B. God brings great blessing to His followers (19-20):
 - 1. He bears our burdens
 - 2. He is our salvation
 - 3. He delivers us from bondage and from death
- C. God will defeat and judge His enemies, those who are rebellious to His rule (21-24)
- D. A celebration of the ark entering the tabernacle in Jerusalem (24-29)
- E. Those nations who oppose Him will be brought to worship Him (30-34)
- F. Prologue and benediction (35)