

“Bless our God”

Psa. 66:8

Introduction:

- A. Psalms 65 and 66 are songs of praise.
 - 1. Sound like they may have been composed about same time — perhaps at year’s end (65:11)
 - 2. Both call upon Israel to praise God.
- B. Most of us could easily make list of ways that God has been good to us.
- C. Let’s examine what the Psalmist himself had in mind in these two psalms.

Discussion:

I. Material Prosperity (65:9-13).

- A. Material prosperity of our nation since World War II.
 - 1. Compare homes today with a generation or two ago.
 - 2. Compare standard of living with a few years ago.
- B. Material prosperity of churches.
 - 1. Meeting places better than forefathers.
 - 2. More preachers supported by churches — churches get more preaching.

II. God’s Providence in History (66:5,6).

- A. David had in mind the beginning of his nation.
 - 1. Their deliverance from Egypt — “Turned the (Red) sea into dry land.”
 - 2. Their entrance into Canaan — “Went through the (Jordan) river on foot.”
- B. Can we not see God’s providence in our own history?
 - 1. A nation free of state imposed religious tyranny.
 - 2. A nation where the “restoration movement” could thrive.

III. God’s Refinement Through Trials (66:10-12)

- A. God uses adversity to purify his people (cf. Jas. 1:2-4).
 - 1. Persecution (Heb. 12:3-11)
 - 2. Factions (1 Cor. 11:19).
- B. One does not seek trials, but when trials come God uses them.
 - 1. To seek trials would be tempting God (Matt. 4:6-7).
 - 2. God will help when temptation comes (1 Cor. 10:13).

IV. Spiritual Satisfaction (65:3,4; 66:16).

- A. Atonement (NKJ), forgive (ASV), purge (KJV)
- B. Satisfaction in God’s house. (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:4).

Conclusion:

- A. Who can measure the goodness of God?
- B. “Make a joyful noise... (66:1,2)