

Weekly Lesson Theme: God Deserves Our Thanks

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 65:1-13

Key Lesson Theme: "God Deserves Our Thanks"

Today's Lesson: Monday, November 20

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Psalm 65:1-13

- 1 Praise is rightfully yours, God, in Zion; vows to you will be fulfilled.
- 2 All humanity will come to you, the one who hears prayer.
- 3 Iniquities overwhelm me; only you can atone for our rebellions.
- 4 How happy is the one you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We will be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple.
- 5 You answer us in righteousness, with awe-inspiring works, God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the distant seas.
- 6 You establish the mountains by your power; you are robed with strength.
- 7 You silence the roar of the seas, the roar of their waves, and the tumult of the nations.
- 8 Those who live far away are awed by your signs; you make east and west shout for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly, enriching it greatly. God's stream is filled with water, for you prepare the earth in this way, providing people with grain.
- 10 You soften it with showers and bless its growth, soaking its furrows and leveling its ridges.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness; your carts overflow with plenty.

- 12 The wilderness pastures overflow, and the hills are robed with joy.
- 13 The pastures are clothed with flocks and the valleys covered with grain.
They shout in triumph; indeed, they sing.

The Bible Meets Life

It is easy to thank God for the tangible things in our lives. After all, they are usually right in front of us; we experience and know them through our five senses. While we should thank God for those things, God's blessings extend beyond the physical to include spiritual benefits, emotional healing, relational restoration, and much more. All these blessings demonstrate His love, greatness, power, and grace toward us. We are to thank God for them all.

The Setting

Psalm 65 may not be as familiar to us as some psalms, but it is a powerful, moving word of praise and thanksgiving to the only Lord God. A large number of the psalms were written in the context of some event, experience, or for use by the worshiping community in the temple gatherings. Exactly what prompted the writing of this psalm is not known, but it does appear to be associated with worship in the temple, especially during a season of thanksgiving, such as one of the harvest festivals.

The psalm is titled "To the chief musician, a psalm and song of David." David may have been the specific author, or it could be part of the Davidic collection of materials that he favored, authorized, or endorsed. The chief musician would be someone like a choirmaster who had musical responsibilities in temple worship. We often use psalm interchangeably with our words hymn or song. Here Psalm 65 is called a hymn and song. It is a hymn in the sense of being designed to give praise to God. The focus is on Him. That it also is a song may indicate that it was indeed meant to be sung, perhaps in a unique but simple musical form.

The psalm easily can be divided into three strophes, or parts. The highlight of verses 1-4 is praise to God, especially for the forgiveness of sin. Verses 5-8 focus on the mighty display of God's power in creation. Finally, verses 9-12 praise God for his provision that sustains the earth and human life. We

will use the same segmentation in our study. For each of these areas of our lives we will conclude that He is worthy of praise and thanksgiving. As James would say centuries later, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday