

The Worshiping Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 66

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Homo Adorans (cf. Heb 13:13-16; 1 Pet 2:9-10)

What is man? Various answers have been given to that question. Some have characterized man as *homo sapiens* – _____ man. That which distinguishes man is his calling to reason. Others have characterized man as *homo faber* – _____ man. That which distinguishes man is his calling to create. But biblically, man is *homo adorans* – worshiping man. That which distinguishes man is his calling to _____ God rightly.

Psalm 66

To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm.

¹Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! ²Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. ³Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. ⁴All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah ⁵Come and see the works of God; *He is awesome in His* doing toward the sons of men. ⁶He turned the sea into dry *land*; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. ⁷He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah ⁸Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, ⁹Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved. ¹⁰For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. ¹¹You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. ¹²You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich *fulfillment*. ¹³I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, ¹⁴Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. ¹⁵I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah ¹⁶Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. ¹⁷I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. ¹⁹*But* certainly God has heard *me*; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰Blessed *be* God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

II. Worshiping Man

A. Praise God, all the earth! (1-4)

William Plumer writes, "*We should do all in our power to make the worship of God not only decent, solemn, and impressive, but glorious*" (Plumer, 653).

B. Come and see the works of God toward His people! (5-12)

The psalmist invites the *peoples* to *come and* _____ God's awesome works toward, His salvation of Israel (the pronouns are all plural "they/we, us, our") and so bless the Lord.

C. Come and hear the mercy of God toward me! (13-20)

The psalmist promises to worship the Lord because of God's salvation and invites those who fear the Lord to *come and* _____ his story of salvation.

So here's the message of Psalm 66: When God acts to save us from trouble, corporately or individually, we will summon all men, especially those who fear the Lord, to _____ the Lord with us.

III. Salvation and Worship

A. The Goal of Salvation (1-4, 8, 13-15, 20 cf. Heb 13:15-16; 1 Pet 2:4-5)

What is the goal of our salvation? Why has God saved us in Christ? Well, remember that Peter writes in his first epistle, “*Coming to [Jesus] as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” (1 Pet 2:4-5). Why is God forming us as *living stones* and a *holy priesthood*? That we might *offer up spiritual sacrifices* to the Lord.

In the old covenant, sacrifices were of the herd and flock. Our Lord Christ, however, has transformed all this. He offered *Himself* as the fulfillment of these sacrificial offerings. Paul writes that Christ “*has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma*” (Eph 5:2). Christ is our final sacrifice.

So how do we fulfill Psalm 66 in the new covenant? By offering _____ up to God through Jesus Christ in worship and praise and service. As Paul writes to the Romans, we are “*to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service*” (12:1). So Paul writes:

¹⁵Therefore by [Christ] let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Heb 13:15f)

B. The Scope of Salvation (1, 4, 5, 8 cf. Lk 2:29-32; Rom 15:8-13)

So why offer such sacrifices of praise and good works? Because we want the nations to *come and see the works of God*; we want those who fear the Lord to *come and bear all that God has done for my soul*. We want *all the earth* to join us in the worship of our glorious God! And God promises that in history, prior to Christ’s return in glory, *all the earth shall worship Him and sing praises to Him* (66:4). God sent His Son to restore right _____ to the earth. Only in worshiping Him do we find our true calling as human beings. In Isaiah 42, God the Father sings to His Son:

⁵Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶“I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. (Is 42:5-8)

God refuses to *give His glory to another*. He will have all the earth worship Him. So Simeon sang when he held Jesus in his arms, “*my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel*” (Lk 2:30-32).

⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” ¹⁰And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” ¹¹And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” ¹²And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:7-13)

C. The Righteousness of Salvation (3, 7, 18 cf. Ps 2)

IV. Conclusion