

Psalm 68

68:1-3 – The Ark is on the move! God is intervening in history.

68:4-6 – Distinction between the believing faithful (oppressed) and the opposing rebels (proud rebels)

68:7-10 – God moves into a military battle at the front of his people

68:11-14 – The Lord’s military victory

68:15-18 – The Lord has moved into his permanent sanctuary in Jerusalem, Mt. Zion (Mt. Moriah)

68:19-23 – God delivers his people or brings salvation

68:24-27 – The victory procession up to the Lord on Mt. Zion

68:28-31 – The defeated Gentiles come to the True God

68:32-35 – A call to all the nations of the earth to hear, learn and turn to the Lord

68:1-3 – The Ark is on the move! God is intervening in history.

- 68:1 – “Sinai” represents a portable sanctuary (the ark) that is moving in victory to a permanent sanctuary (Temple)
- 68:2 – This verse is quoting the “Song of the Ark” mentioned in Numbers 10:35: “Whenever the ark set out, Moses said, ‘Rise up, Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you.’ ”
- In 68:25-30 there is a grand procession ascending the Temple Mount after a great military victory
- “wicked” = those who reject God’s word
- “righteous” = those who embrace the word, truth, reality

68:4-6 – Distinction between the believing faithful (oppressed) and the opposing rebels (proud rebels)

- 68:4 – instead of “praise” or “extol” for the Hebrew word solu the verb means “to pave” or “prepare a highway” as in Isaiah 57:14 and 62:10. It is the same verb:
 - Isaiah 57:14 – “And it will be said: ‘Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.’ ”
 - Isaiah 62:10 – “Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.”
- This matches God moving on his chariot mounted in the clouds.
- Instead of “desert”, “plains”, “steppes” the word “clouds” also works and is better
- “rebellious = those who oppose God’s truth, grace, covenants
- “poor”, “fatherless”, “widows” = those oppressed by those who hate God

68:7-10 – God moves into a military battle at the front of his people

- 68:7 - Begins report of God’s awesome military triumph
- 68:7 - God is leading his people in battle
- 68:10 – provision in the wilderness which was the beginning, but the battle includes the defeat of Egypt, Amalekites, Moab, Jericho, Canaanites, etc...many battles

68:11-14 – The Lord’s military victory

- 68:11 - Women announce the victory....maybe from village to village, maybe in song
- 68:12 - Women divide the spoil left behind in the progressing victory of the Lord. (an example is in Judges 5 when the Canaanite women were expecting spoil.)
- 68:13 – Men stayed among the flocks instead of enduring the hardship of the battle as in Judges 5 where some tribes chose not to participate because they anticipated failure and did not want to face the wrath of the enemy when Israel was conquered in battle
- Yet, the plunder for their women was great because the Lord was victorious

- 68:13b – the silver dove is an example of the jewelry taken as plunder by the women after the Lord’s victory – a silver dove detailed in gold
 - 68:14 – The victory included supernatural weather events that resulted in snow falling on Mount Zalmon (Mt. Ebal rising on the north side of valley of Shechem with Mt. Gerizim on the south side.) This would be a rare climate event in Israel. Clearly the miraculous advance of God who is using weather in his battle plan caused this.
- 68:15-18** – The Lord has moved into his permanent sanctuary in Jerusalem, Mt. Zion (Mt. Moriah)
- 68:16 – Mount Bashan is a mountain that was NOT chosen by God and may have shifted and sank as a result to the shifting plates and earthquake used in the battle.
 - The text should read: “Why do you leap, O crooked-ridged mountain”, which apparently is the result of the earthquake that may have lifted Mt. Moriah (and, someday will)
 - 68:17 – YHWH ascends his new dwelling place in Jerusalem
 - 68:18 –
 - rebels and captives are taken by God;
 - tribute and plunder is given or taken by God;
 - the spoils go to God’s faithful people;
 - the victorious King would receive and distribute the plunder.
- 68:19-23** – God delivers his people or brings salvation
- 68:20 – “salvation...deliverance from death”
 - God delivers his people from death:
 - From the underworld
 - From the frontlines of battle
 - Both are true:
 - The dead are saved
 - The military is saved
 - 68:22 – the Salvation refers to restoration from foreign lands and from other extreme depths (the sea, Hades, etc.)
 - 68:23 – Israel and their dogs (battle dogs?) waded through the blood of enemies and the dogs scavenger the corpses of the enemies
- 68:24-27** – The victory procession up to the Lord on Mt. Zion
- 68:24 - The victory procession begins on Mt. Zion (Mt. Moriah)
 - 68:25 – The order of the musical performers in the procession:
 - First, the singers
 - Second, the tambourine players
 - Last, the band with their musical instruments
 - 68:27 – The tribes mentioned here are the tribes that joined Deborah in battle (Judges 5)
- 68:28-31** – The defeated Gentiles come to the True God
- 68:30 – Beast in the reeds is the foreign power of Egypt and represents all foreign power
 - Their way is the way of war
 - Their desire is for plunder and gain by war
 - 68:31 the foreign powers no bring tribute to God in Jerusalem.
 - 68:31 – “Nobles” = “tribute bearers”
- 68:32-35** – A call to all the nations of the earth to hear, learn and turn to the Lord
- The world and the nations are warned and called to worship the Lord today