

Come and See
Psalm 66:1-7

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This year's VBS, *Monumental, Celebrating God Greatness*, was wonderful. During this past week the kids learned just how great God is by studying the life of Joseph.

In fact, our focal Bible verse, Psalm 66:5, sums up everything the kids encountered in their lessons and activities.

Psalm 66:5, *"Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people."*

As I read this Psalm, I could understand why it fit so well with Joseph's life. Psalm 66 call to worship for the great things God has done.

Joseph radiated this Psalm when he recognized that God had used his brothers to place him in the position he now held.

Today we're going to look at the first 7 verses of Psalm 66, but, as we do, think about Joseph and his trials and subsequent rise to power.

Psalm 66:1–7, *"Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.'" Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him. He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him."*

The Psalmist gave us this call to adoration with insights and understandings of worship. He called for all the whole world to worship God.

Like Joseph, He's telling us to sing glory to God's Name and give Him praise. As he calls the whole world to worship, he says in Psalm 66:3, "Say to God..." In other words, God's the focal point.

When we gathered together this past week, the focal point wasn't the various activities being done each night, the focal point was God.

That's why we're here, to praise God! The psalmist wants us to turn our face, our heart, and our mind to Him. Just like Joseph learned, we need to fix our eyes on God.

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But, unfortunately, sometimes our focus strays to ourselves, or someone else, or just stuff, causing us to miss the opportunity to really worship.

Most of the time, people come to church thinking they know what God likes and then proceed to show Him what they think He ought to like.

If He's the God we've pictured in our head, then He certainly wouldn't like this or that, but I'm sure He'd like what I bring Him. That's the way many people tend to worship God.

So, the Psalmist is telling us the correct way to focus on Him. We're to declare that His deeds and power are so awesome that even His enemies cringe before Him.

Verses 1-4 explain that not only are we are to declare what God already knows, but we're to glorify and acknowledge Him as we recognize His deeds and awesome power.

When we do this, we'll realize that all the earth should worship God. Every knee should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

In verse 3, the psalmist tells us that His "*enemies cringe*" before Him. In other words, many may acknowledge Him as Lord, but they'll do it in a cringing way.

This word "*cringe*" used here in verse 3 means that God's enemies submit to Him in a meaningless way. There's no substance to it, like something fake. They don't mean what they say.

Yet, no one in hell is confused as to who God is or whether or not Jesus Christ is Lord. They know that Jesus is Lord but it's meaningless to them.

We know that in the end all the world will be worshipping Him. How do we know this, listen to Revelation 7:9-12?

Revelation 7:9–10, "*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

This should be the desire of our heart. We should be living and waiting in great anticipation for that day. Why? That Day will fix everything.

How amazing it'll be, looking at the Lamb who was slain! This is the depiction of the power of God that saves us from our sins.

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Psalm 66:5–7, "*Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people! He turned the sea into dry land, they*

passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him. He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him.”

Even though we know that His deeds are awesome, the Psalmist says we're to declare it to the world. God wants to hear testimonies from His people of His deeds.

As I was thinking my way through this, I see that this is also an invitation to others to worship God. We invite people to worship when we give testimony of God's power and what He has done.

This is why Vacation Bible School is so important. The children learn how mighty and awesome God is and they have no qualms of sharing their amazement with their family and friends,

The Psalmist even gave two examples of God's awesomeness. The first one was when he said, *“He turned the sea into dry land,”* which referred to the parting of the Red Sea.

The second example was when he said, *“they passed through the waters on foot.”* This referred to the parting of the Jordan River. Two examples of what God had done in their life.

After these two examples, the psalmist writes, *“come, let us rejoice in him.”* This phrase is also translated, *“There did we rejoice in him.”*

This phrase is important. Where is “there” in the first example. They rejoiced in Him on the other side of the parted Red Sea. They didn't rejoice in Him on this side of the Red Sea.

On this side of the Red Sea, they basically told God that He didn't know what He was doing; that He messed up.

Even though He got them out of slavery, when they finally get to the Red Sea they're thinking "*God's about to get us all killed.*" There's an army chasing after us.

They're saying they wouldn't have come this way. They think they know better, but then God parts the Red Sea.

When they get to the other side, having gone through trial and tribulation, they turn back to see that their enemy had been destroyed and then they rejoiced.

They rejoiced on the other side of the Red Sea. On the other side of the catastrophe, they rejoiced. God, how did You know that the Egyptians would follow us into the parted Red Sea?

Where is "there" in the second example, when they got to the Jordan River. What happened? It was parted for them to walk into the Promised Land.

God, how did You know that Jericho wasn't going to fight us and kill us with their big army right then and there on the plains of Jericho?

God knows because the heart of the enemy is in His hand. Do you know how many times I tell myself that?

He controls not just me and this church, but He controls ALL things. The psalmist goes on to say, in this second part of verse 7, "*let not the rebellious rise up against him.*"

In other words, they didn't get to the other side of the sea and say, "*look what we did!*" or "*I told you if we yelled real loud to the walls of Jericho it would fall to pieces.*"

Don't let the rebellious exalt in themselves. Don't take glory for what God did. Joseph understood this principle.

We should always look and say, *“look at what God did!”* That’s the praise and worship we’re to give unto Him. We should always acknowledge and declare what God has done.

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Conclusion

As the Psalmist tells us in Psalm 66:5, and what the children learned this week, is that we’re not only to tell people to *“come and see”* but we’re to give testimonies of our life to others.

We need to tell them to *“come and see”* what God had done that man can’t do. We’re to give testimony to what God does and praise Him for what He’s done.

We need to tell people that there’s absolutely no sin of which God will not forgive us, nor will He ever leave us or forsake us.

When God puts a heavy burden on our back, He always puts a safety net under us. He’ll be with us through water and fire.

God doesn’t test us to see how we’ll turn out because He already knows. The Lord tests us so that we’ll know, learn, grow, and confess.

I want to encourage you today by asking you to memorize this Psalm so you can say to someone you meet, *“Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!”*

Share with a believer. Share with an unbeliever. When was the last time you explained to someone what God did for you in a saving way?

“Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!”