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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Praise God the Provider Ps 65:1-13

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us to see more clearly our need to **Praise God the Provider**. The study's aim is to see how properly aligning ourselves with God's pattern for our spiritual lives will bring great and lasting blessings. The study's application is to daily thank and praise God for the blessing of His gracious provision for all.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Many psalms have superscriptions. Psalm 65 is one that does, and the superscription introduces what follows as being "A psalm of David. A song." Thus King David, "the hero of Israel's songs" (2 Samuel 23:1), is the author. The superscribed introduction also indicates it was "For the director of music." This is more than a dedication. It serves as permission for the composition to be used by those who orchestrated the musical praise for Israel's national celebrations. The psalm serves to reveal the heart of the man whom the Lord selected to be king of his chosen nation, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). The Israel of David's era seems to have been a nation of singers and instrumentalists (1 Chronicles 13:8; etc.). They had no electronic amplification. They had no technology to allow projection of words on a screen. And Israelite worship did not feature songs that people had been listening to all week on personal devices. Instead, worship featured heartfelt songs sung from memory, sung with passion and conviction. Psalm 65 seems to have been one those.

Pantheism is the false belief that all things are God. Closely related is the belief that God is in all things (panentheism). These beliefs are popular today among some people who want to be "spiritual" but reject "religions." Sometimes, pantheists point to Bible texts like Psalm 65 to justify their views, claiming the psalmist extols creation itself as being worthy of worship. The psalmist's depictions of the earth's singing for joy, etc., are thereby misinterpreted to signify that the world is a living entity, capable of offering praise to God just as humans do. Make no mistake: a pantheistic reading of this psalm is incorrect. The psalmist does indeed marvel as he looks around at creation, but he does not pause to worship created things. He sees creation as evidence of the greatness and kindness of the one who stands behind it: the Creator. God the Creator is a person in Psalm 65, worthy to be praised and worshipped. Part of the created order is that we are persons too. Our personhood in no way makes us equal to God, but reflects the intention in his design that we are capable of having a personal relationship with him. We should respect God's creation, but we should never worship it. Pantheists are looking in the right direction, but they stop before they get to the mighty Creator of the universe. He is the uncreated God who loves, forgives, and cares for us. The contents of Psalm 65 suggest praise during a harvest celebration. These community gatherings may have been where the people of Israel learned the words and music of the psalm. But a psalm such as this would also have lent itself to home worship, to be taught to children and sung as a praise and thanksgiving song before the weekly minifeast of Sabbath day. Psalm 65 still serves us well today, whether as a personal expression of praise or for lending words to corporate worship. May we honor the Lord with our hearts full of thanksgiving. May our voices of joy join with the witness of earth as we lift our praises to the Lord, the Creator of all.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Trust God for today, and prepare for tomorrow

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
The humble ant's keen industry
Can teach us all a lesson,
If in creation we will see
God's classroom is in session —
Gustafson

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*Provides her supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.*
(Prov 6:8 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 6, 2011)

Series: Creation & Salvation
UNIT: All Creation Praises God

NEXT WEEK
Praise God The Creator
(Ps 104:1-3, 24-30)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Praise God for His Provision of Redemptive Works (Psalms 65:1-5)

Answered prayer (1-2,5)

Answered prayers because God's eyes are on the righteous (Ps 34:15)

Answered prayers because God promises to answer even before speaking (Isa 65:24)

Answered prayers because God promises to fulfill answers and seeking (Matt 7:7-8)

Answered prayers because of obedience (1 John 3:21-22)

Forgiving sin (3)

God is forgiving because of man's repentance (Jer 18:7-8)

God is forgiving because He is gracious (Joel 2:13)

God is forgiving because He hears the prayers of His children (Isa 38:1-6)

God is forgiving because He promises to forgive those who forsake their ways and turn to Him (Isa 55:7)

God is forgiving because God grieves over punishing man (Jer 42:10)

Imparting joy (4)

Joy through the refreshing of God (Acts 3:19)

Joy through liberation (Rom 8:19-21)

Joy in the heavens and on earth (Ps 96:11-12)

Joy through reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-20)

Joy through knowing that there is eternal life (1 John 2:17)

Joy through hope in the new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1)

Praise God for His Provision of Creative Works (Psalms 65:6-13)

Creative power (6)

God's creative power through the work of His hands (Ps 102:25)

God established the world (Prov 8:27-29)

God created the world through His power, wisdom, and understanding (Jer 10:12)

God created the world through His Almighty power (Amos 4:13)

Stilling the waters (7)

God leads beside still waters (Ps 23:2)

God has control over all waters (Mark 4:39)

God leads beside streams of water because He is our Father (Jer 31:9)

God has a covenant that one day all will lie down in safety (Hos 2:18)

Watering the earth (8-10)

Waters through abundant showers (Ps 68:9)

Waters that satisfies the earth (Ps 104:13)

Waters allows plants to grow over the earth (Ps 147:8)

Watering through rain (Joel 2:23)

Bountiful harvests and pastures (11-13)

God provides bountiful creatures on the earth (Ps 104:24-25)

God provide bountiful food (Acts 14:17)

God provides open green pastures (Joel 2:22)

Jesus is the shepherd and provides all that is needed (Ps 23:1)