

Psalms 64,65

Psalms 65:5 By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far off seas

These two psalms highlight the contrast between trouble from men and blessing from God.

Psalms 64: David turns to God when he is faced with a whispering campaign that intends to wound him. David asks first that God hear him and consider his thoughts. He asks to be protected from the fear of his enemies. We do need to distinguish between that harm that an enemy may be able to do to us and the harm that the fear of that enemy will certainly do to us. An enemy represents a threat, but any actual damage only happens if the threats are acted upon. Usually they are not. Fear is limiting from the moment it shows up. Fear of your enemy or of a circumstance is usually more damaging than the threat that is represented even if what is threatened does take place.

David knows his enemies. They plot secretly against him (but David knows about it) They are workers of iniquity so that their

present attitude is no surprise. Their weapons are a sharp tongues and arrows of bitter words. These enemies get together to encourage each other in these plans. They are convinced that their plans are both secret and shrewd. David concludes his thought with an observation that is both specific to his circumstance and general in respect to human character, "Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep."

Then David turns his thoughts to God. No solution can ever be found by just describing the problem. There must be an answer. God is David's answer. He will also shoot an arrow and then the enemy will be wounded. They will stumble over their own tongue and everyone will see it for what it is. They will recognize the work of God and "wisely consider His doing." The outcome will be a renewal of trust and confidence in God and in His ability to deliver His people from harm.

Psalms 65: Scroogie describes the three sections of this Psalm as God's grace, God's greatness and God's goodness. The psalm celebrates God's blessing.

The first image is of a worshipper approaching the temple with praise for God

in his heart. He cannot wait to get inside and express his gratefulness. He has made promises to God and he is now determined to keep them. He is conscious of his sins and failings but even more confident in God's forgiveness and restoration. He feels blessed to be able to approach God's house and to worship in the holy temple.

God is seen in the ultimate as well as the immediate. There are the awesome deeds of righteousness by which He answers us, His rule over all the ends of the earth and the far-off seas, His strength by which the mountains are established, His power with which He stills the noise of the seas and the tumult of the peoples.

God is also experienced in the blessings of the harvest. The watering and enriching of the earth and the provision of food are blessings within the claim, "The River of God is full."

The description continues, "You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance. They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing."