

## Psalm 68

God wants to bless us. We have to be willing to receive his help. To do so, we have to recognize what he is already doing for us. God usually hides behind everyday circumstances. At any given time a person could claim that there is nothing supernatural in his life. The atheists can come up with any imaginary or arbitrary explanation. At the same time a believer should be able to spot God's ongoing supernatural provision and guidance. Some people might have to experience how much can go wrong to really see that.

My wife had a boss years ago who was a very successful business owner. He was a coarse and crude man; who did not seem to have any spiritual reverence. Even his wife seemed to have some level of disdain for holy things. We went to his home, situated on the cliffs over the beach around the holidays. As I left; I felt so empty and fearful for him. I asked God if he needed to take away this man's toys to save him. He had a son a while later. This boy had more physical defects and complications that I had never even heard of. There were countless operations and issues with depleted insurance coverages. His parents were at their wits end. At the same time, his Russian business partner was discovered to have been skimming from their overseas activities. His partner may have even had connections to the Russian underworld. Her boss was unable to address the problem directly; for fear of reprisal. A person suggested that he make use of missionaries to handle his money transfers; because they were trustworthy. At the same time; they would receive some support. Somehow, these crushing brutal experiences; with the connection to these missionaries resulted in salvation to himself and his household. He ended up being the person who was a large benefactor in starting Calvary Chapel Maui.

God uses naturally-occurring things to orchestrate our blessings and protections. He uses weather, neighbors, jobs, health conditions, etc... We could conclude that God was not involved in our lives if we are not paying attention to the daily details in our lives. Recognizing what is happening in our lives is like interpreting a parable. The activity before us might be a farmer planting seeds; but God is also communicating parallel spiritual truths to us.

Solomon tells us that timing and chance are the things that propel us. We really cannot fully-see spiritual activity. I have discovered that a person can have the ability, timing,

opportunity, desire and even an anointing...and still fail. There is more going on than meets the eye.

*The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. (Ecclesiastes 9:11)*

God uses mundane and unwelcomed methods of guiding us.

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2)*

This chapter is about times when God made it obvious that he was intervening to rescue his people. We all have stories to tell about a moment when it was obvious that God was helping us. There are times when it is comforting to know that we serve a God who can rescue us from anything in the universe.

### **At the Second Coming**

**Read Psalm 68:1-6:** These verses are describing a time when God breaks the evil death grip Satan and evil men have on this world; just before we commit mutual annihilation. Armageddon and the flood are very similar. It is the last moment for God to act, before all is lost. Things will be so screwed up that evil men will dominate and control every government. The selfish intentions of man; with Satan's help, are on the verge of destroying mankind. This is how God steps in with a momentous rescue at his second coming.

*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He [e]had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in [f]fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15** Now out of His mouth goes a [g]sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. **17** Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice,*

saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the [h]supper of the great God, **18** that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, [i]free and slave, both small and great.” **19** And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. **20** Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. **21** And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:11-21)

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your [a]spoil will be divided in your midst. **2** For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses [b]rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. **4** And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. **5** Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with [c]You. (Zechariah 14:1-5)

Similarly, Hannah recognized that God steps in and saves the weak; and brings down the proud.

“No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. **3** “Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. **4** “The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. **5** Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. **6** “The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. **7** The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And

*make them inherit the throne of glory. “For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, And He has set the world upon them. 9 He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. “For by strength no man shall prevail. 10 The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to His king, And exalt the [c]horn of His anointed.” (1 Samuel 2:2-10)*

### **The 40-Year Wilderness Experience**

**Read Psalm 68:7-8:** People are afraid of God if they are doing wrong. That highway patrolman in your rearview mirror is a concern. People are relieved that God is watching them if they need a miracle. The presence of authority and power is received differently depending on your intentions. It is not that God was an angry unforgiving God in the Old Testament and then, he became all about mercy in the New Testament. It is just the perspective of the writer. The Old Testament was written to people who hated the prophets. The New Testament was written by people who had been touched by the Holy Spirit. You could say that the Old Testament is about the flesh; and the New Testament is about life in the Spirit.

The children of Israel had been living in the land of idols for a very long time when God called them out to something better. Israel was a new nation, without a sense of identity. God let them have a glimpse of his power; and he showed them who the real God is. They had spent 400 years in an idolatrous country. In 40 years they would go back to an idolatrous land (Canaan). God made it clear that there is only one God.

These verses describe how God revealed his awesome power, in order to rally and increase the awareness of his people. He is creating a healthy respect for his rules for survival. His people need to learn the basics of holiness and living apart from worldly influence and trust in God’s provision. Anything having to do with letting God drive our otherwise our self-directed lives causes anxiety at first. This is a fearful encounter to intimidate evil-doers.

*Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people*

*out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and [c]the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish. (Exodus 19:16-21)*

God miraculously shared his survival rules right after he displayed his power in the 10 Plagues, crossing of the Red Sea, and destruction of Pharaoh.

*But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is [c]contrary to sound doctrine, (1 Timothy 1:8-10)*

### **Millennial Kingdom**

**Read Psalm 68:9-16:** The millennium will fully bless God's people. There will be others who are just going along with it, because they have no choice. This is when God takes a wasteland on earth, and turns it back into a paradise at the snap of his finger. He smashes the warlords; and puts an end to the treachery. He makes life pleasant on earth again. God establishes a new world order according to his righteousness and justice.

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the [i]punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zechariah 14:16-19)*

## The Resurrection After the Cross

**Read Psalm 6\*:17-18:** The previous miraculous interactions with men are easily observed. They are physical salvation. They are about deliverance from visible peril. These verses are about spiritual rescues to those who were prisoners in death. Old Testament saints who died went to a place called *Abraham's Bosom*. Jesus brought them to heaven.

*“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and [h]fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with [i]the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ (Luke 16:19-26)*

When Jesus died on the cross he subjected himself to the full power of death and hell. He defeated them both. We could not otherwise ever get past those two imposing barriers.

*“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you [f]have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having [g]loosed the [h]pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ (Acts 2:22-28)*

*Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” 9 (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also [d]first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) (Ephesians 4:8-10)*

## **The Second Coming**

### **Read Psalm 68:19-23:**

Like the flood; a time comes along when evil just has to be destroyed. The corruption on earth will get so bad that God will just have to wipe out the problem. This is what The Battle Hymn of the Republic describes.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the [coming of the Lord](#); He is trampling out the vintage where [the grapes of wrath](#) are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.

**(Chorus)**

[Glory](#), glory, [hallelujah](#)! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on....and it continues

Sometimes we need a big brother to beat up the bullies; and make normal life possible again. We get into jams because of bad decision making; or just because we live in a fallen world. Either way; we need our daily CPR and rescues. Our enemies are too big for us.

*To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:....A time to kill, And a time to heal; (Ecclesiastes 3)*

*Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is [a]glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the*

*peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.” (Isaiah 63:1-6)*

### **The Millennial King on His Throne Dispensing True Justice**

**Read Psalm 68:24-35:** These verses describe a perfect king in a storybook setting; where everything is fair and right. Sometimes things get so screwed up; that they become unfixable. Right now; everything is tainted by men’s dirty hands. God has had to step into the story in a big way to *right the ship*. Adam and Eve could not appreciate all of this; since this is how they started. To be thankful, we need to have something to compare our blessings to.