

Series: Psalms

Title: Our Salvation and Confidence

Text: Ps 65: 5-13

Date: June 4, 2020

Place: SGBC, NJ

Title: Our Salvation and Confidence

Psalm 65: 5: *By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea: 6: Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power: 7: Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. 8: They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. 9: Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. 10: Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof. 11: Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. 12: They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. 13: The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.*

The Psalmist uses natural, earthly things to declare spiritual heavenly things—God, in his holy sovereignty, is our salvation and our confidence. If you asked me to define sovereignty it is this:

Psalm 115: 3: But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Proposition: By God’s sovereign power he not only causes us to cast all our care on Christ (as we saw in the first half of the Psalm) but then he continues to protect and provide for his people all our days.

FEAR

Psalm 65: 5: *By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:*

By God’s sovereign power he creates fear and keeps reverence in the heart of his child. He does this by answering his people “*by terrible things*” which God performs “*in righteousness.*” “*Terrible things in righteousness*” means fearful, reverend, awesome things. God performs them in righteousness. By these things God produces fear, reverence, awe in the heart of his people and sustains it. The law of first mention: where a word is used the first time in the scripture it usually means that throughout. This word is first used here:

Exodus 34: 10: And [God] said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou *art* shall see the work of the LORD: for it *is* a TERRIBLE THING that I will do with thee. 11: Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

Usually these terrible things are performed in conjunction with God’s acts upon our enemies. These acts show God’s sovereignty over all his creation and over all our enemies.

Psalm 68:7: O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: 8: The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel 9: Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary...32: Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah: 33: To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, *which were* of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, *and that* a mighty voice. 34: Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency *is* over Israel, and his strength *is* in the clouds. 35: O God, *thou art* TERRIBLE out of thy holy places: the God of Israel *is* he that giveth strength and power unto *his* people. Blessed *be* God.

Young people use words like “epic” and “awesome” speaking of things not “epic” or “awesome.” Only God performs epic and awesome things—terrible things in righteousness.

First and foremost we see God’s terrible, reverend, awe-inspiring works performed in righteousness on the cross. Nothing is as holy, reverend as when Christ suffered that living death as the Substitute for his people, crying, “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” In it we see the strictness of God’s terrible righteousness—his holy, reverend righteousness. When sin was found on our Substitute, God spared not his own Son. God unsheathed the sword of justice on his Son because “*shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*” God is just. He will in no wise clear the guilty, not even when it is his own son bearing our sins. In righteousness every guilty elect child died when God made Christ a curse for us. The righteous government of God fell entirely upon Christ’s shoulder and by Christ’s blood he upheld and honored it while he justified his people from our sins in one fearful act of righteousness.

Then by “*terrible things in righteousness*” the Spirit of God makes us cry out for mercy by making us behold our iniquities prevail against us (v3). If God has made a sinner pray to God for the first time then God will answer you with *terrible things*. He will give you spiritual discernment to hear the requirements of his holy law. You will see something of God’s holiness and something of your own guilt, ruin and condemnation. Then he will make his child see his sins purged by Christ on the cross. By this *terrible work in righteousness* God creates reverence and fear, a broken and contrite heart, in his child—causing us to approach unto him through the blood of his only-begotten Son

Job 37:22...with God is TERRIBLE majesty. 23: *Touching* the Almighty, we cannot find him out: *he is* excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. 24: Men do therefore FEAR [same word] him: he respecteth not any *that are* wise of heart.

Psalms 66: 3: Say unto God, How TERRIBLE *art thou in thy works!* through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

God’s elect were enemies in our minds by wicked works. But by his great and terrible works God made us submit unto him in reverence. Then we see the result when God has created a new heart in his people throughout the earth.

Psalms 66: 4: All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing *to thy name*. Selah. 5: Come and see the works of God: *he is* TERRIBLE *in his* doing toward the children of men. 6: He turned the sea into dry *land*: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

That is what Christ did on the cross for his people. He dried up the sea of justice so that we went across on dry ground while that same justice slays all our enemies.

And God keeps this holy fear in the heart of his child so that he is to us: “*The God of our salvation!*” True believers look nowhere but to God for our salvation—for all salvation. He chose us and caused us to approach unto him. Christ purged our sins and intercedes on our behalf so that God answers us. He made us satisfied with the goodness of his house so that we dwell under his gospel the rest of our days.

Therefore our triune God in Christ is “*The confidence of his people*” throughout “*all the ends of the earth and of them that are afar off upon the sea.*” Do you have confidence in yourself for anything? Not if God has answered you by *terrible things*..

Proverbs 14: 26: In the FEAR [same word as terrible] of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Psalms 118: 8: *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

The rest of these things are God’s terrible things that he performs in righteousness for his people all our days.

IMMOVABLE

Psalms 65: 6: Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; *being* girded with power:

God’s sovereign power makes his child immovably set on Christ. Think of the mountains—how immovable they appear. The *strength of God* set the mountains; they are girded *by God’s power*.

Likewise, it is by God’s strength that he makes his child immovable setting us on Christ our Righteousness; *By God’s power* we are girded about so that we are immovable from Christ. But as immovable as the mountains, God makes us even more immovable.

Isaiah 54: 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

It is not only the power of God’s sovereignty that sets us immovably on Christ, it is the power of Christ’s covenant established in Christ’s blood and righteousness. God has made an everlasting covenant to save us and God is holy and will not lie to his people. God’s holiness coupled with Christ’s righteousness will not allow his redeemed to be moved. Paul said nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ.

Psalms 55: 22:...he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalms 112: 6: Surely [the righteous] shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. 7: He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. 8 His heart *is* established, he shall not be afraid, until he see *his desire* upon his enemies.

PROTECTION

Psalms 65: 7: Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

By God's sovereign power he protects his people from the enemy. God literally stills the natural seas. Christ did so when he walked this earth. But a greater display of power is seen in that the noise of the seas and the tumult of the people speaks of enemies who speak against his people.

Psalm 124: 1: « A Song of degrees of David. » If *it had not been* the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; 2: If *it had not been* the LORD who was on our side, *when men rose up against us*: 3: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: 4: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: 5: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. 6: Blessed *be* the LORD, who hath not given us *as* a prey to their teeth. 7: Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. 8: Our help *is* in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 89: 8: ;O LORD God of hosts, who *is* a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? 9: Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. 10: Thou hast broken Rahab [Egypt, Pharaoh] in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. 11: The heavens *are* thine, the earth also *is* thine: *as for* the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them...14: Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

A man may be strong on land but in a great storm at sea he finds out what a weak, helpless creature he is. So do we when the sea of proud enemies rage against us with their noisome waves.

Why would God permit the devil and his seed to charge us and persecute us? When we become too proud, too strong, God permits enemies to rise like waves raging against us to humble us. God blesses it revealing to us our sinfulness and our weakness. He shows us once again that we are helpless to defend ourselves, that we have no strength at all, that we are less than nothing and vanity. And God reminds us again that Christ is our Refuge and our Strength.

This past week we have seen the tumult/riots of the people. God has power to still the tumult of the people. But even more God especially stills the enemy when they speak against his people—the only thing God has to do is speak

Psalm 46: 6: The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Brethren, if someone professes to be a child of God, never speak against them. It is a dangerous game to speak against one of God's people. God says, "*touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm*" (1 Ch 16:22; Ps 105:15) Christ said, "*Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*" (Mt 18:7).

But also, while God stills the enemy by his irresistible power, God graciously stills our hearts, subduing the tumult of our flesh. Only God can subdue our old man of sin. The Demon-possessed man of Gadara is us by nature. He was constantly in a tumult. He was full of raging waves within and without—naked, dwelling among the tombs, cutting himself, and they could not even bind him with chains. Neither could religion with all its commandments and traditions of men tame us. But Christ spoke to that man. After Christ spoke peace in his heart that man who was once a demon possessed sinner was seated, clothed and in his right mind. That is what God continues to do in the hearts of his people by his sovereign, irresistible power and grace. By these terrible things performed in righteousness God makes his child fear and reverence God.

Amen!