

PSALM 65: 1-13

I have chosen to focus on Psalm 65 that we recited this morning. It is of particular interest to me as PSALMS are SONGS and it has also opened doors to examples as to how we CAN and MUST partner with God.

Psalm 65: is a HYMN of thanksgiving beginning with prayer, and ending with praise to God.

If we were to connect verses 1 - 8, it is not so much about the goodness of nature, as about the goodness of God. God hears and answers prayer. We enjoy the goodness of God's creation in green summer and at golden harvest because God hears our prayers.

ALL IS WELL WITH THE WORLD.

The problem with Psalm 65 is that life is not all good.

The world is filled with people whose sin has separated them from God. They don't know forgiveness. They don't enjoy the blessings of God's presence.

They don't have a clue who Christ is. And the nations ?..... they are not in harmony. From the Middle East to the Far East and from Russia to America, the nations are in turmoil. And, NATURE has run amok, with drought replaced by rain and flooding of almost biblical proportions.

I quote David Attenborough, noted scientist at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

For most of his life, he has been deeply engrained in the health and well-being of our environment, with a love and respect for the gift of nature.

He has a passion for the living world. He believes that humanity would want to protect such splendor.

“How wondrous the forms this earth has wrought. How nuanced and intricate the behaviors our earth has sculpted over deep time. Our living world has fallen to deforestation, industrial-scale

agriculture, and meat production (grazing). We need to consider the plight of the rainforests and the importance of maintaining them.

9 of them are found in the tropics, that region just above and below the Equator.

The planet's water cycle is contingent on an intact rainforest where trees pass water one to another for thousands of miles around the Earth. With a diminished supply of trees, climate change will move the deserts to the farmlands, withering crops. Water will become scarce, and drying forests will lead to even more uncontrollable fires As we have experienced, it has already begun, and we see abuse of our planet by the dying of our ocean's coral reefs from **POLLUTION, UNSUSTAINABLE AND DESTRUCTIVE FISHING, THE MINING OF CORAL FOR BUILDING MATERIALS** and a **WARMING CLIMATE** are some of the many ways we are slowly and carelessly destroying Earth.

Nature is very organized. **TREES** - breathe in carbons and exhale oxygen. This is the life blood of earth's resources. They are being cut down throughout the rain forests, primarily for agricultural reasons and to provide housing. The people in these areas are quite poor. They need to grow crops to feed their families. **CARBON EMISSIONS** and **METHANE** are also to blame for the demise of the rainforests. None of these are an easy fix as it affects our way of life.

I believe that each of us here on earth has a purpose and responsibility. We can do our part to combat the further loss of these God-given gifts of nature that sustain life as we know it. By insisting on reducing carbon emissions and encouraging sustainable downing of trees in the rain forests, and finding nonthreatening alternatives to some food products, we can fulfill our part of the partnership with God. Find organizations who support responsible use of Earth's resources. Help fund them or get involved.

John and I recently saw the fury of a storm which we had never encountered before. We had just arrived home from Ohio where we enjoyed our granddaughter, Hannah's, graduation from high school.

GOT HOME WED. MAY 31
WEEK LATER, A SIMILAR STORM TRACKED THE SAME. WATCHED
IT PICK UP THE HEAVY GRILL

We saw the fury of that storm, and we felt the strength of that storm.
Climate change is a part of our lives.

When we recited Psalm 65 today, we learned that God DOES hear prayer. But I wonder how much we expect God to clean up our transgressions.

We are here on Earth because we were born on this planet. We belong here. We are the most intelligent of species on Earth. God gifted us this planet to sustain us. We have a partnership with nature. We take care of it, and it will take care of us. But we haven't honored that partnership. We know that we have taken the environment for granted. From climate change to deforestation to the loss of species.... we are driven by unsustainable habits.

God's plan provided trees to give us oxygen while TREES are storing carbon emissions. Nature has been the silent partner that is now beginning to speak volumes that we can hear, and see, and feel. Some of what we ask God to do, we can do for ourselves, but we are limited, God is not. This powerful, gentle, loving God is there for us all. God is within us, an innate part of our being.

Whatever Psalm 65 is, it **IS** a Psalm of hope. When we take care of nature, it takes care of us. When we partner with God, God hears and answers our prayers.

Sometimes I wonder if this life we share on earth isn't a learning time. A place to gain understanding, to grow and to share before we pass on to a new life.

God has given us opportunities - to use our gifts and to know God is real. Partner with God and find your way.

Psalm 65 also says: OUR SINS ARE STRONGER THAN WE ARE,
BUT GOD BLOTS OUT OUR TRANSGRESSIONS
God remembers them no more. This is how great the grace of God is.

Christ has fully paid for our sin.

Our job is to do what we can to work WITH THE GOD-GIVEN GIFT OF NATURE in protecting, nurturing and restoring where we CAN make a difference. THIS IS OUR HOME . Then we pray to the Almighty, thanking God for our gifts and asking God to help in ways beyond OUR OWN ability.....partnering with God.

The life we have been given is part of creation itself, the desert and the meadows, the hills and the valleys, and everything in them “shout for joy and sing”.

GOD has given us a place to be born and to live
IT IS HOME. IT IS EARTH. Partner with God and enjoy the journey !

AMEN