Psalm 66

A Call to the Nations to Worship Elohim

For the choir director. A Song. A Psalm.

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A1 A CALL TO THE NATIONS TO PRAISE ELOHIM 66:1-12

B1 The Imperative ¹ Mode of Praise! 66:1-2

C1 A World-Wide, Joyful Shout! ¹ 1/ Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; 66:1

C2 Glorifying Song! ² 2/ Sing the glory of His name; 66:2

C3 Glorifying Praise! Make His praise glorious.

B2 The Imperative Content of Praise! ² 3/ Say ² to God, 66:3-4

C1 His Awesome Power Causing Feigned Obedience 66:3

D1 "How awesome are Your works!

D2 Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You.

C2 His Great Name Inducing World-Wide Worship and Praise 66:4

D1 Worship: 4/ "All the earth will worship You,

D2 Songs of Praise

E1 And will sing praises to You;

E2 They will sing praises to Your name." Selah.

¹ 62:1-2 Title - Imperative: All the verbs in this section are imperatives. Mode: Referring to shouting and singing.

² 66:3 - Say: An imperative in Hebrew.
B3  A Recitation of The Works of Elohim: His Sovereignty over All  66:5-7

C1  His Deliverance of Israel from Egypt to Canaan  66:5-6

D1  The command to contemplate the works of Elohim  66:5

E1  {5} Come and see ³ the works of God,

E2  Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.

D2  The description of the works of Elohim  66:6

E1  His drying up the Red Sea:  {6} He turned the sea into dry land;

E2  His enabling Israel to cross the Jordan at flood stage:  They passed through the river on foot;

E3  The exhortation to rejoice!  There let us rejoice in Him!

C2  His Rule over the Nations  66:7

D1  He is the One ruling mightily for eternity:  {7} He rules by His might forever;

D2  His scrutiny of the nations:  His eyes keep watch on the nations;

D3  The warning to the rebels:  Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

B4  A Call to the Nations to Bless Elohim Because of His Benevolently Disciplinary Tactics  66:8-12

C1  A Renewed Call to the Nations to Bless Elohim  66:8-9

D1  {8} Bless our God, O peoples, And sound His praise abroad,  66:8

D2  {9} Who keeps us in life And does not allow our feet to slip. 66:9

C2  Because of Elohim's Redemptive Discipline of His People  66:10-12

D1  The description of Elohim's discipline  66:10-12a

E1  {10} For You have tried us, O God;  66:10

E2  You have refined us as silver is refined.

E3  {11} You brought us into the net;  66:11

³ 66:5 - Come and see: Both verbs are imperatives.
E4  You laid an oppressive burden upon our loins.
E5  {12} You made men ride over our heads;  66:12a
E6  We went through fire and through water,

D2  The purpose of Elohim's discipline! Yet You brought us out into a place of abundance. 4 66:12b

A2  THE PSALMIST'S RESOLVE TO PAY HIS VOWS BECAUSE OF ANSWERED PRAYER 66:13-20

B1  His Resolve to Pay His Vows  66:13-15

C1  His Resolve To Bring Burnt Offerings to Elohim's House (the Sanctuary):  
{13} I shall come into Your house with burnt offerings;

C2  His Reason: I shall pay You my vows, (66:13b)  66:13b-14
D1  {14} Which my lips uttered  66:14
D2  And my mouth spoke when I was in distress.

C3  His Itemization of His Offerings  66:15

D1  Fattened livestock and rams:  {15} I shall offer to You burnt offerings of fat beasts, With the smoke of rams;

D2  Bulls and billy goats: I shall make an offering of bulls with male goats. Selah.

B2  His Testimony of Answered Prayer  66:16-20

C1  His Invitation to Hear of Elohim's Work on the Psalmist's Behalf  66:16
D1  {16} Come and hear, all who fear God,
D2  And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

C2  His Rehearsal of His Cry  {17} I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.  66:17

C3  The Hindrance to His Prayer:  {18} If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;  66:18

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4 66:12 - abundance: The six verbs in 66:10-12a are all perfects or suffixed verbs, meaning they convey background information, merely describing the discipline of Elohim. The main point of the passage climaxes here in 66:12b – Elohim disciplined in order to bring the people to a place of abundance! (The verb here is imperfect or prefixed – conveying the principal action of the section.)
C4  His Assurance of Elohim's Hearing:  {19} But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.  66:19

C5  His Blessing of Elohim for Answered Prayer!  {20} Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.  66:20
Author’s Literal Translation from Hebrew

66:1  To the chief musician, a song, a psalm.
     Shout joyfully to Elohim, all the earth!

66:2  Sing out the glory of His name;
     Make glorious His praise!

66:3  Say to Elohim, “How fearful are your works.
     Because of the greatness of your power, shall feign submission to You – the ones opposing You!

66:4  All the earth will worship You;
     And they will sing to You;
     They will sing to Your name! Selah.

66:5  Come and see the works of Elohim,
     The One causing fear in His deeds toward the sons of men!

66:6  He turned the sea into dry land.
     Through the river they passed on foot.
     There let us rejoice in Him!

66:7  He is the One ruling by His might forever!
     His eyes over the nations keep watch.
     The rebellious ones, let them not exalt themselves!

66:8  Bless, O peoples, our Elohim;
     And cause to be heard the sound of His praise! –

66:9  – The One holding our soul in life (lives)
     And not does He give to slipping (noun) our feet.

66:10 Because You have tested us, O Elohim;
     You have smelted us as to smelter silver.

66:11 You have brought us into a net.
     You have placed misery upon our hips. [Could mean He has placed an oppressive burden on the small of our backs.]

66:12 You caused to ride – men – over our heads.
     We went through fire and through water.
     Yet You brought us out into abundance!

5 66:3 – fearful: ptcpl from yra – fear-producing or dread-producing

66:13 I shall come into Your house with burnt offerings.
       I shall pay to You my vows,

66:14 Which have uttered – my lips
       When distress to me.

66:15 Burnt sacrifices of fatlings I will offer to You with the smoke of rams;
       I shall make an offering of bulls with billy goats. Selah.

66:16 Come! Hear! – and I will declare – all fearing God –
       What He has done for my soul.

66:17 To Him with my mouth I cried
       And he was extolled with my tongue.

66:18 Harm if I see in my heart,
       Not will hear – Adonai

66:19 Certainly has heard – Elohim;
       He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

66:20 Blessed be Elohim,
       Who has not turned aside my prayer
       Nor his loyal love from me.