

# Psalm 66

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Commentaries have various opinions concerning the author and the occasion of Psalm 66. They do agree that the psalmist is reflecting on the deliverance of God's people from a period of captivity. The psalmist celebrates God's faithfulness in hearing and answering prayer. I believe it was written to celebrate and remember God's deliverance of His people from Egypt.

## Delivered Into Captivity (verse 11)

The last thing we want to consider is that our gracious and loving God would permit His children to be brought into slavery. Nor do we want to consider that we might put ourselves into slavery. But God has given us free will, and He allows us to choose to what or to whom we are committed. Does God want us to deliver ourselves into chemical dependency, sexual impurity, or behavioral addictions? No! Does He have the power to stop us? Yes! Then why doesn't He?

Why do you suppose God does not stop His children from destruction *before* they reach the point of a self-imposed slavery?

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God will not force His children to choose to good and right things. His desire is for His children to *want* to do good and right things. He will allow us to walk the path of destruction, and carry the heavy burdens that accompany wrong choices, in order for us to see our need for His deliverance. But we can rest assured, He does not ignore our cries for rescue.

Read Exodus 3:7-8.  
What is God concerned about?

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Freedom is God's plan for His children. He provided us freedom from all forms slavery possible by sending His Son to die (Galatians 5:1). He also equipped us with the power to call on Him in our weak and broken place of bondage, and then to ask for His help to make the right choices (2 Timothy 1:7). God's perfect plan for His children is to be free to enjoy the heritage of being His child.

## Tested And Refined (verse10)

While God intends for us to be free, and while He will help to bring about deliverance, He will not waste an opportunity to refine us and help us learn from our wrong choices. Slavery, of any type, involves much anguish and suffering. Yet suffering is a great teacher.

To refine silver, the temperature must reach over 2100 degrees Fahrenheit. That's hot! As the precious metal melts, its impurities rise to the top, and the silversmith removes them. The

impurities and imperfections simply cannot be removed unless the metal goes through this hot, purifying process.

God refines us much like a silversmith refines the precious metal. Our anguish and suffering can be likened to the smelting process of silver. God knows that it is necessary for things to “get hot” in our lives in order for our impurities and imperfections to be removed. When things “cool down” our faith is then stronger, and we are pure and free of the impurities that led us to our need for deliverance.

**Read 1 Peter 1:6-7.**

What is the purpose of refining our faith?

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What is the natural result of refining?

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### **From Sea To Dry Land (verse 6)**

God is always on time. At the-very last minute, when freedom seemed impossible, when the Israelites were caught between the raging sea and the enemy Egyptians, God parted the sea (Exodus 14:21-22).

In our lives, He knows when the refining process is complete and the impurities are gone. So He permits the anguish and the suffering to last just long enough for our desperation to lead us to Him. That way our deliverance, our release can be accredited to no one other than Him. I’ve found that the “just in time release” is so extraordinary that I cannot conceive taking or giving the glory to another. In those moments, I long to cry out, “Praise be to God who has not rejected by prayer or withheld His love from me (vs. 20)!”

**Read Exodus 14:16-18.**

What does God want others to see and know through our release?

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**Read Joel 2:27.**

What does our generous God say we won’t have to endure?

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Our generous God repays we lose during our time in slavery check out Joel 2:27. The victory is His and gives the spoils to us.