"Bless our God"

Psa. 66:8

Introduction:
A. Psalms 65 and 66 are songs of praise.
   1. Sound like they may have been composed about same time — perhaps at year’s end (65:11)
   2. Both call upon Israel to praise God.
B. Most of us could easily make list of ways that God has been good to us.
C. Let’s examine what the Psalmist himself had in mind in these two psalms.

Discussion:
I. Material Prosperity (65:9-13).
   A. Material prosperity of our nation since World War II.
      1. Compare homes today with a generation or two ago.
      2. Compare standard of living with a few years ago.
   B. Material prosperity of churches.
      1. Meeting places better than forefathers.
      2. More preachers supported by churches — churches get more preaching.

II. God’s Providence in History (66:5,6).
   A. David had in mind the beginning of his nation.
      1. Their deliverance from Egypt — “Turned the (Red) sea into dry land.”
      2. Their entrance into Canaan — “Went through the (Jordan) river on foot.”
   B. Can we not see God’s providence in our own history?
      1. A nation free of state imposed religious tyranny.
      2. A nation where the “restoration movement” could thrive.

III. God’s Refinement Through Trials (66:10-12)
   A. God uses adversity to purify his people (cf. Jas. 1:2-4).
      1. Persecution (Heb. 12:3-11)
      2. Factions (1 Cor. 11:19).
   B. One does not seek trials, but when trials come God uses them.
      1. To seek trials would be tempting God (Matt. 4:6-7).
      2. God will help when temptation comes (1 Cor. 10:13).

IV. Spiritual Satisfaction (65:3,4; 66:16).
   A. Atonement (NKJ), forgive (ASV), purge (KJV)
   B. Satisfaction in God’s house. (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:4).

Conclusion:
A. Who can measure the goodness of God?
B. “Make a joyful noise... (66:1,2)