

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36ⁱⁱ

¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.

²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!

⁶God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God
of Sinai, *

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

¹⁰Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

³³Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.

³⁴He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

³⁵Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

³⁶How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

ii About the Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

This psalm, which might have been stitched together from several ancient songs, recounts several episodes in which God fights on the side of the Israelites to rescue them and give them victory. The stanzas move from the exodus through the desert to settlement in the promised land and the conquest of Jerusalem, always extolling the God who saves (vv. 7-23). Remembrance invites a community celebration (24-28), an expectation of future deliverance (29-31) and a summons for all nations to recognize the awesome power of God (32-35).