

May 11 Answers

- 1) David's psalms. Psalm 68 is a magnificent song that celebrates God's faithfulness to Israel and His victory over the wicked. It traces the establishment of God's **kingdom** in the past, and it looks **forward** to the defeat of all opposition in the future. In that day the entire world will acknowledge God/Christ as Lord and bring gifts to His throne. Paul later invoked the image of God's victory procession to explain that Christ **descended** to earth as the baby of Bethlehem, suffered and died, then rose in glorious power and **ascended** into heaven to be exalted at God's right hand (Eph 4:7–13). He triumphed over His enemies, and like a conquering king, He led His foes into captivity and **gave** gifts to His people (cf. Ps 68:18). The gifts He gave were the most precious that can be given, for they were the blessed Spirit's gifts of **grace**! They were given to "**equip** the saints for the work of ministry" and "for **building** up the body of Christ" (Eph 4:11–12). When these gifts are exercised in love, the church achieves its full **maturity**: the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ! "Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!" (Ps 68:35).