

"Let All the People Praise Thee"

Psalm 67

There is no occasion given to this psalm and the only consistent speculation is that it was given to be sung at the Feast of Pentecost (Harvest - Ex. 23:16; Lev. 23:15-21), or the Feast of Tabernacles (Ingathering - Ex. 23:16; 34:22), based upon the reference in verse 6 to the "increase" of the earth, a term used for harvest.

This psalm is one of the clearest "mission psalms" – these are passages in the book of Psalms where the heart of God for the nations is on display, where Israel is reminded that their blessing is meant to extend outward, calling the whole world to know, praise, and worship God. They show that "missions" is not a New Testament novelty but a consistent biblical theme from Genesis to Revelation.

Joshua 4:23-24

²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: ²⁴ That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

At the core of this psalm lies a simple yet profound truth: God blesses His people so that His salvation might be known, praised, and feared among all nations.

- It reaches back to the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26).

Numbers 6:22-27

²² And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²³ Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, ²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. ²⁷ And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

- It rests upon the Abrahamic covenant (“in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” – Gen. 12:3).
- It resonates with Israel’s identity as a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6).
- And it reaches forward to the millennial kingdom, when the nations will worship Christ the King (Isaiah 2:2-4; Revelation 15:3-4).

The psalm is built with a chiastic structure (A-B-C-D-C'-B'-A') centered upon verse 4 – the righteous reign of God over the nations. Everything flows toward and out of the glory of God’s kingdom.

I. THE PETITION FOR GOD’S BLESSING – VS. 1

A. The cry for His grace – “Be merciful unto us”

1. The Hebrew word here (חַנּוּן) is translated “gracious” in the text we read from Number 6. It’s a word that means to show favor or undeserved kindness.
2. Something to notice in this psalm – there are no first-person personal pronouns. This demonstrates that the psalmist had the entire nation of Israel in mind, singing as one voice.
3. Israel begins this song with humility, acknowledging dependence on divine grace.

Psalm 86:15

¹⁵ But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Titus 3:5

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

B. The call for His goodness – “and bless us”

This is not a cry for God's blessing out of selfishness, but it is rooted in the promise God made to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

C. The comfort of His glory – “cause His face to shine upon us”

This is a Hebrew idiom for divine favor, presence, and delight. It's part of the blessing we read in Num. 6.

- It is right to seek God's blessing when the purpose is God's glory.

II. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S BLESSING – VS. 2

A. To reveal God's character – “Thy way may be known”

“Way (דֶּרֶךְ), in this verse, is dealing with God's manner of acting, His righteousness, His redemptive dealings with man.

Psalms 103:7

⁷ He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 33:13

¹³ Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

B. To display God's salvation – "thy saving health"

1. This is the Hebrew word **יְשׁוּעָה** (Yeshua) and is only translated three times by the word "health," and all of them in the Psalms. It's translated "welfare" once in Job 30:15. The rest of the 78 times it is used, it is translated in some form of the word "salvation" or "deliverance."

The word in Hebrew means salvation, deliverance, or rescue.

2. The phrase "saving health" in the KJV is not referring to physical health. In 1611, the English word *health* meant more than how we view it today. Along with physical health, it often referred to "wholeness, deliverance, or well-being." As used here, it means "God's saving deliverance," or "God's saving power."
 - a) The English word *health* comes from the same root as *whole* and *hale* – the idea of being made whole, safe, or delivered from danger.
 - b) For example, in the 1600s one could speak of:
 - (1) "The health of the kingdom" (its stability, security)
 - (2) "The health of one's affairs" (prosperity, well-being)
 - (3) "The health of the soul" (spiritual well-being)
 - (4) "The health of the ship" (its safe condition)

"Saving health" was a natural, accurate expression at that time in history.

[Luke 2:30-32](#)

³⁰ For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ³¹ Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

³² A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Revelation 7:10

¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

C. To reach all peoples – “among all nations”

Worldwide missionary vision was rooted in the Abrahamic Covenant, as seen in this phrase.

Isaiah 49:6

⁶ And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Romans 15:9-12

⁹ And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. ¹⁰ And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. ¹¹ And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. ¹² And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always, even unto the end of the world.* Amen.

- God does not bless His people to make them comfortable but to make Himself known.

III. THE PRAISE OF ALL PEOPLE BECAUSE OF GOD’S BLESSING – vs. 3-5

A. Universal invitation – “the people”

“People” (עַמִּים) is plural, speaking of all people on earth, not just Israel.

B. Unified exaltation – “all the people”

God is not just the God of Israel; He is God of all nations and all people.

C. Unique foundation – God’s righteous rule (vs. 4)

1. “Judge” (שָׁפַט) – to rule with justice.
 2. “Govern” (נָחָה) – to shepherd, to lead gently
- Only when God rules will all the nations rejoice. This points to the Millennial Reign of Christ.

IV. THE PROVISION OF GOD’S BLESSING – VS. 6

A. Physical blessing – “the earth yields her increase”

1. This, first and foremost, is speaking of a literal, agricultural harvest blessing.
2. Typologically, it is speaking of a spiritual harvest.

John 4:35

³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

B. Personal blessing – “God...shall bless us”

The prayer of verse 1 now becomes the assurance of verse 6.

Psalms 144:15

¹⁵ Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: yea, happy *is that* people, whose God is the LORD.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- God's blessing is not random but is the natural outflow of His righteous rule.

V. THE PRODUCT OF GOD'S BLESSING – VS. 7

A. A repeated blessing – “God shall bless us”

Ends where the psalm began: God's blessing upon His people.

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

B. A reverent earth – “all the ends of the earth”

Points to the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 45:22-23

²² Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else. ²³ I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

C. A renewed fear – “shall fear Him”

This is not dread but reverence for who God is and what He has done.

Revelation 15:3-4

³ And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints. ⁴ Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou* only *art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

- The final product of God's blessing is worldwide

worship.

Conclusion:

This psalm began with a request for God's blessing and ends with the certainty of God's blessing, but at the center of it all lies the purpose of that blessing: that the nations might know, praise, and fear the Lord.

This psalm teaches us that:

- God blesses His people because of grace.
- God blesses His people to make His salvation known.
- God blesses His people so that the world will worship Him.

This psalm looks forward and anticipates the time when Christ will reign and the nations will rejoice under His righteous rule. Until then, however, we are called upon to live with a worldwide vision and not just a national one, to reflect God's blessings upon us, and to proclaim His salvation "to all the ends of the earth."