

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 • Read Psalm 67

Questions from the Scripture text: Upon whom does v1 ask God to be merciful and to cause His face to shine? But then among which nations does v2 hope this will make His salvation to be known? And how many of the peoples do v3, v5, and v7 expect will come to praise God? How will all these come to feel about all this (v4)? What else will respond well at the time when all the peoples have been brought to saving (and praising!) faith (v6a)? Whose God is the God that blesses us, if we are believers (v6b)?

What causes people from all nations to praise the Lord? Psalm 67 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these seven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **among all the nations, God will be praised by those whom He blesses without compromising the righteousness of His judgment.**

The end of the Psalm is God blessing us as a result of all the nations and people having been brought to faith. But how does the Psalm get to that end?

There is a desire in this Psalm that God's mercy and blessing to us would be so great that everyone would hear about it. I wonder, when we pray for such blessing, how much of our desire is looking forward to the Lord's missionary use of it.

But that is the great desire here: for God's way and salvation to be known. Isn't that a wonderful way of putting it? It places the priority of emphasis right where it belongs: on the desire for God to be glorified. Yes, love of neighbor means that we rejoice in his salvation. But that is the secondary love.

Even more than thinking, "Oh that men might be saved!," we ought first to be thinking, "Oh that God would be glorified!" The two are not mutually exclusive; the Lord delights to save. But the way we think about it reveals the priorities of our hearts. Would we pray for a friend's salvation, "that Your way may be known in that house, and Your salvation among all the families of that neighborhood!"?

But God isn't just glorified in the fact of saving people, He's also the object of all of their praise. vv3 and 5 are bookends of praise around the crown jewel of v4. Four times, in these two book ends, comes the great shout, "Let the peoples praise You!!"

Why will they praise like this? v4 gives the answer: because God has made them glad, and the praise that they sing, they sing out of the joy of their hearts. God has preserved and vindicated His righteousness while saving us. This is the great marvel of the cross!

Do we praise like that—out of richly felt joy, and focused on the rich doctrine of His judgement, righteousness, and justice (cf. Rom 3:25-26)?

What is a higher priority for you, your comfort or God's glory? What makes you glad?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have been merciful to us and blessed us and made Your face to shine upon us in Jesus Christ. Now, receive us through Him as we come to worship You. Put away our sin by His sacrifice. Count us worthy with His worthiness. Make Your way and Your salvation known to us. Make us to know You as our very own God, who blesses us in every way, but especially in this way: that Your face shining upon us would make us to be glad and sing for joy. For, we ask this through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP67 "O God Give Us Your Blessing" or TPH66B "Come, All Ye People, Bless Our God"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 67. These are the words of God to the chief musician on stringed instruments. A Psalm a song. God, be merciful to us and bless us and cause his face to shine upon us. So la that you're way maybe known on the earth, your salvation among all nations. Let the people's praise you.

O God. Let all the people's praise you. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy for you shall judge. The people righteously and govern the nations on earth. Say law, let the people's praise you. O God. Let all the peoples. Praise you than the earth? Shall yield her increase God.

Our own God shall bless us. God shall bless us and all the ends of the earth self fear him, So far, the reading of God's inspired. And and Aaron toward. So we can hear and see right away in this. Passage the idea that God would not just bless Jews in all the nations, but all the nations through the Lord, Jesus was not new and the New Testament or the Great Commission.

Of course we have been hearing it ever since Genesis 3 and especially and the promises made to Abraham and and Isaac and some extent to Jacob. But here it's very obvious. People's is here four times and the nations plural in verse 4, as well. And verse 2, as well.

So the desire here that God would receive praise from all of the nations, all of the peoples and that he would do. So by saving people without compromising his justice, the blessing in verse 1 as the Aaronic blessing or at least it. It reminds us of that. It's meant to bring that to the forefront of our minds.

You know, the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. And these God be merciful to us. And bless us and causes face to shine upon us and the Lord bringing as it were the nations into the blessing of Israel.

And so we see how that blessing comes in verse 4 for you shall judge the people righteously, and govern, the nations on earth. And so this comes not by God winking at sin or pretending that sin is no big deal. But he blesses without compromising his justice at all.

God's mercy and blessing to his people that we desire to be so great. That not only we would praise Him and that should be our desire in our blessing and our Blessedness that we would be brought to praise him. But We ought to desire more than just that we would pray some but that everyone who hears or sees what God has done for us that they would praise him.

And so this is our great desire ought to be our great desire. And our blessing. He gives us Psalms like this songs, like this prayers like this, so that as we sing them, we would be reminded that the great end of his blessing, His people and saving his people, your salvation, your way.

Verse 2 be known on the earth and among all the nations that the great end of all these things would be, that he would be praised by all. So we don't just say oh may men be saved second half of verse two or oh may men know the right way.

The ways of God first half of verse two. We want those things. Of course, don't? We want men to be saved, of course, Don't? We want men to know God's way and to walk in it and to know God's ways that he himself acts. Yes. We want them to have right.

Practice and right doctrine but we want what we want. Most of all is that, God would be praised forgiving them, right thinking that God would be praised to forgiving them right acting. But most that God would be praised for saving them so that they could think and act in the right way.

But all of it so that God would be praised that God would make us. Glad in praising him. We don't just praise him as those who are astonished. We save him as we sorry, we praise him. As those who are blessed Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

We often talk about reverence and we're right to do. So Remember Leviticus 10 God says by those who draw near me, I will be revered. Well, remember Hebrews 12. Let us have grace so that we may worship God acceptably with reverence and awe for his consuming. Fire has absolutely right to talk about reverence and worship.

But we also must come with joy or let the nations be glad and sing for joy. So let us also aim at joyfulness before God, this of course, is something that that we need to work on not just in the public assembly, which is the primary. I context for Psalm 67 and it's instructions, but also, in our, in our family worship and in our private worship.

And if we have trouble stirring our hearts up to gladness if we're having family worship and we feel like we're just going through the motions or our heads are drooping and retired or we're distracted by other things and we don't have the joy. That is commanded. Well, then we can feed that joy by the things that are here that God judges, the people righteously, but He has made a way for us to be saved and for His judgment to be righteous.

He is just and the justifier of the one him he saves through faith in Jesus Christ. So, we think upon his salvation, we think upon how he hasn't compromised his justice, but now his justice demands are blessing. We think compound and how he has made us as very own and created and redeemed us in order to know Him, in order to us for us to have the blessedness of knowing Him and drawing near to him and seeing who he is and what he's like, and not just knowing what he says for us to do.

But having His Spirit give us a new heart to want to do what he says to do. And so as we meditate on these things and we realize what the living God has done for us, That should stir up our joy so that we will worship not just with reverence, which we ought to.

But with joy and so our great priority must be the glory of God which glory we worship with joy, man. Let's pray. Our Father. We thank you for this great missionary Psalm and we confess and recognize you as the great missionary who are glad in yourself from all, eternity and have created us in order to share your gladness with us to gather us into yourself.

We thank you that you have done this. Not just for Israel, but by means of Israel. For your church, the Israel of God from all the nations that we might be glad and sing for joy, as your people who you have blessed and you have justified. And so, we pray that you would give us.

Often be thinking about and live in light of you're making us righteous in yourself so that we would rejoice over you and that we would sing for joy. Even now, as we come to sing, which we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.