



Community Group Discussion Guide

June 9, 2024

Psalm 67 | God Shall Bless Us

MOTIVATE

Starter Question:

⇒ ***How do you define the word "blessing?" Based on your definition, what are some blessings you are thankful for today?***

DISCUSS

Found in Book 2 of Psalms, Psalm 67 is considered to be a Thanksgiving Psalm. These types of psalms express a profound awareness of and deep gratitude for God's gracious blessings. Psalm 67 was written to the choirmaster. In the superscription the author indicated this was a song to be accompanied by stringed instruments. Including Psalm 67, anonymous authors account for 49 of the 150 psalms. (See [Psalms Overview](#) for more information.)

Throughout the book of Psalms are some musical terms—many of which the meanings were lost by the time the Old Testament was translated into Greek. An example is the word "selah," used twice in Psalm 67 at the end of verses 1 and 4. Selah is believed to be either an indication of a pause or silence for effect, a crescendo, or a musical interlude.

The psalmist voiced his desire that all humanity, both Israelite and non-Israelite, should know God and respond to Him in praise for the blessing of His salvation. The non-adversarial attitude toward the pagan nations is noteworthy in this psalm. The strong missionary emphasis is based on the covenant of God with Abraham in which the blessing of Abraham and Israel is linked with God's ultimate intention to bless all peoples on the earth (Genesis 12:1-3). The psalmist petitions God's blessing for God's people so all the nations will praise God.¹

⇒ ***Discuss this quote: This is the highest motive for outreach and missions. God will receive greater glory by an increasing number of worshipers who are glad in the Lord and who declare His greatness on a global scale.***²

Psalm 67:1-3 *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah 2 that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

The psalmist began by using an ancient blessing of Aaron, the high priest of Israel during the years of their wilderness wandering. In Numbers 6:24-26, Aaron asked for God's blessing to be extended to His people, as a king would smile on a subject with pleasure. This was a request for a fuller measure of God's grace and favor to be bestowed upon them. In Numbers the focus was almost entirely on

¹ Lawson, S. (2004). [Psalms 1–75](#). (M. Anders, Ed.) (Vol. 11, p. 336). Nashville, TN: Holman Reference.

² Lawson, S. (2004). [Psalms 1–75](#). (M. Anders, Ed.) (Vol. 11, p. 335). Nashville, TN: Holman Reference.

the well-being of Israel. Here, however, the blessing upon Israel is extended to include the salvation of all nations.

- ⇒ ***Why is the inclusion of all nations a significant part of our salvation theology today?***
- ⇒ ***Why should we be thankful that we have been "grafted into" the family of God through the work of Jesus to establish God's salvation among all the nations?***

The purpose for such a petition was that God's ways might be known on earth. God chose Israel to serve as His instrument to reach a lost world with the saving message of His name (Genesis 12:1–3; 22:18).³ The psalmist wanted God to empower and enable His people in their spiritual lives so they would spread His salvation among the nations. This implies that God's people would carry the truth of divine redemption and forgiveness to all the peoples, leading to their conversion. The psalmist's passionate zeal was that more and more people would be added to the company of those who magnified God's name as the result of their knowing the ways of God and their experience of His salvation.

- ⇒ ***Discuss this quote from "Let the Nations be Glad" by John Piper: Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is the fuel and goal in missions. It's the goal because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God.***
- ⇒ ***Why do missions and the worship of God go hand-in-hand?***

Psalm 67:4-5 *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah* **5** *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

Worldwide worship of God will become a reality only as God's people proclaim the message of His kingdom to the nations. Their salvation will usher in gladness and joy. This is the ultimate goal of evangelism and missions—that a greater number of worshipers will praise and adore God. Praise is prompted as all peoples come to realize that God rules justly and that in His own authority guides the nations of the earth.

The repeat in verse 5 of the refrain first voiced in verse 3 emphasizes that those who read, pray, or sing this psalm are aligning themselves with a future in which God's purpose includes the salvation of all peoples who give thanks to Him. Often, a repeated refrain drives home the main point of a psalm.

- ⇒ ***How do these verses bring you to praise God for your own salvation?***
- ⇒ ***How do these verses cause you to look forward with joy to sharing the glory of God rather than trembling with fear at the consequences your own sin?***

Psalm 67:6-7 *The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. 7* *God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!*

³ Lawson, S. (2004). [Psalms 1–75](#). (M. Anders, Ed.) (Vol. 11, p. 336). Nashville, TN: Holman Reference.

The psalmist began by asking for God's blessing. He was confident that such blessings would surely be extended. He concluded with a description of the land yielding an abundant harvest, an expression of God's goodness that would strengthen their bodies and enable them to serve Him. As God did with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, God blesses His people so they might be a blessing to the unconverted nations.

Looking forward to this harvest, the psalmist declared that God would do so for the purpose of advancing His kingdom. His blessing would come to His people so that all the ends of the earth would fear Him.

- ⇒ ***How do we turn our blessings from God into an evangelistic endeavor?***
- ⇒ ***How does this psalm relate to this Henderson Hills value? Intentional Disciple-Making: We share the gospel, teach others to obey Jesus' commands, and design ministry approaches that lead to local and global replication.***

TRANSFORM

1. Make personal application: Psalm 67 should inspire a spiritual fervor within in each one of us that more and more unconverted people from among the nations will become worshipers of the one true God. In order that such global missions be extended, the psalmist asked that God's blessing be poured out upon his people. In other words, he prayed that God's people would be blessed so they could extend God's blessings to the unconverted world in this noble task of world evangelization.

- ⇒ ***Discuss this quote: The higher a believer's view of God, the stronger should burn his or her passion that others will come to know this glorious God.⁴***
- ⇒ ***How does an exalted view of God compel believers to do great things for God?***
- ⇒ ***How does gratitude to God motivate you to make His way known to the ends of the earth?***
- ⇒ ***What convictions might God have placed on your heart today as it pertains to evangelism and missions?***

2. Pray: Ask God to use us in the work of missions to bring the nations to faith in Christ. Praise Him that each salvation births another worshipper of the true God. Pray for God to bless us, not for our own sakes, but so that we can be empowered to tell the nations of God's love for them.

STUDY

Resources used, compiled from, and quoted:

- *Holman New Testament Commentary, Psalms 1-75 pages 335-337.*
- *The NIV Application Commentary, pages 925-931.*
- *Shepherd's Notes, Psalm 51-100, pages 31-32.*
- *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions, by John Piper, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993, page 11.*

⁴ Lawson, S. (2004). [Psalms 1-75](#). (M. Anders, Ed.) (Vol. 11, p. 335). Nashville, TN: Holman Reference.