

The Blessed People

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 67

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I. The Abrahamic Covenant (cf. Gen 12:1-3; 22:15-18; 26:2-5)

During the Old Covenant, during the Judaic Age, God promised that one day He would vindicate His Name by _____ one people and using them to _____ the rest of the world. This promise, made originally to Abraham, forms the basis of Psalm 67.

- *“Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””* (Genesis 12:1–3)
- *“Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.””* (Genesis 22:15–18)
- *“Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.””* (Genesis 26:2–5)

II. The Blessed People

Psalm 67

To the Chief Musician. On Stringed Instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

¹God be merciful to us and bless us, *And* cause His face to shine upon us, Selah ²That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. ³Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah ⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁶*Then* the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. ⁷God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

A. Chiasm (A: 1-2; B: 3-6; A': 7)

B. The Prayer and Promise of God’s Blessing (1-2, 7)

The prayer of Psalm 67 alludes to the Abrahamic Covenant and melds it with the Aaronic, priestly, blessing – praying that God would bless Israel and then the nations:

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)

C. Let the Nations be Glad! (3-6)

The psalmist prays that God would grant that the nations enter with us into the joys of worship. Why should they? Because one day God would manifest His righteous rule and govern the nations of the earth.

III. Blessed to be a Blessing

A. God's Fatherly Care

So here's the first thing we learn from Psalm 67: it is entirely appropriate to pray that God would _____ us as His people – spiritually, physically, financially, medically, etc. God loves His people and often sees fit to show that blessing in favorable turns of Providence. John Calvin reminds us in his *Institutes I.xvii.6*:

There are very many and very clear promises that testify that God's singular providence watches over the welfare of believers: 'Cast your care upon the Lord, and he will nourish you, and will never permit the righteous man to flounder' (Ps 55:22). For he takes care of us. 'He who dwells in the help of the Most High will abide in the protection of the God of heaven' (Ps 91:1). 'He who touches you touches the pupil of mine eye' (Zech 2:8). 'I will be your shield' (Gen 15:1), 'a brazen wall' (Jer 1:18); 'I will contend with those who contend with you' (Is 49:25). 'Even though a mother may forget her children, yet will I not forget you' (Is 49:15). Indeed, the principal purpose of Biblical history is to teach that the Lord watches over the ways of the saints with such great diligence that they do not even stumble over a stone... because God has chosen the church to be his dwelling place, there is no doubt that he shows by singular proofs his fatherly care in ruling it.'

B. The Missional Purpose of God's Blessing (Ex 18:10-11)

So why should we pray this way? We pray that God would bless us in order that we might be God's means of _____ others in turn. God is intent to bless us, to bless His people, to rescue us and deliver us again and again from the hand of our enemies; but He doesn't do so that we might all become dragons, hoarding that which God has given to us. He pours out blessing upon us that we might pour it out in turn, that the nations might come to know Him through us. We witness this in the life of Jethro:

"Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them." (Ex 18:10-11)

C. Let the Nations be Glad! (Ps 2:8-12; Mt 28:18-20; Rev 1:4-5)

What is the purpose of missions? _____. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Missions is not ultimate – worship is because God is ultimate, not man. The psalmist summoned the nations to join in worship for one day God would manifest His rule of all the earth. The NT declares that the day the psalmist anticipated, the day God would reveal His rule over the nations, has been inaugurated with the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. God has installed Jesus as Ruler over all the earth.

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. (Rev 1:4-5)

God has begun to answer the hope of the psalmist. God in Christ is governing the nations of the earth now. God promised Jesus, *"Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession"* (Ps 2:8). Jesus is now using the Church to summon the nation to obey their rightful King.

IV. Conclusion