

Psalm 67

“A Longing for Global Revival”

When God called Abraham He promised the patriarch that all nations on the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3). When the nations of the earth saw the blessings bestowed on God’s chosen, obedient people they would be drawn to their God, the true and living God. However, the people of Israel frequently fell into patterns of disobedience, thereby forfeiting God’s blessing and squandering their testimony to the nations. They, like God’s people today, frequently needed personal and corporate revival. Psalm 67, in an upbeat expression of anticipated blessing from God, focuses on the benefits that would accrue to the surrounding Gentile nations once God restored His favor to His chosen people. God’s people must share God’s heart for the blessing of all people on earth.

As God’s people we long to extend the knowledge of God throughout the world (67:1-2).

Psalm 67, composed by an unknown author, is a song written for stringed instruments according to the psalm title. It highlights the need for the nations to understand, praise, and revere God. Such a genuine response to God on the part of the people of the world will come about as God’s people experience His blessing.

God’s people should long for His grace and blessing in their lives (67:1).

We stand in constant need of God’s mercy and grace. This fact is all the more evident when we’ve wandered from God and begin to recognize His withholding of blessings in our lives. Then, like the psalmist, we cry out, “May God be gracious to us and bless us!” Our deep desire for God’s grace and blessing comes from hearts that are broken over sin. If we simply desire the good things of God without any sense of personal responsibility to Him we’ll continue to experience leanness in our souls. But when we truly want God to be honored in this world we’ll cry out for Him to “make his face shine upon us.” We should long for God’s grace and blessing.

God’s people should long for His blessing so that the world will understand His saving work (67:2).

When God blesses His people the world will take notice. In ancient times the prosperity of God’s people, the Israelites, caught the attention of the surrounding nations. The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon because she’d heard about God’s great blessings on the Israelites (1 Kings 10:1-13). We should long for God’s spiritual blessings in our lives so that others will take

note of God's ways and understand His saving work. The nations (Gentiles) would best understand the God of the Jews by seeing God's blessing in their lives. The world will best understand God's saving work by seeing His transforming power in the lives of Christians. We long to extend the knowledge of God throughout the world. This passion for God motivates our involvement in missionary outreach at home and abroad.

**As God's people we long to elevate the
joy of God throughout the world (67:3-4).**

In addition to extending the knowledge of God throughout the world, God's people long to elevate the joy of God. The world can rejoice in the love of God and needs to enter into joyful worship because God alone is worthy of our praise.

God's people should long for all the people groups in the world to praise Him (67:3).

"May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you." This declaration, repeated in verse 5, introduces the word "peoples" which the psalmist uses six times in rapid succession. It refers to the Gentile nations, people groups throughout the world that need to hear about the true and living God and become His worshipers. Those who truly know God will want others to know and worship Him.

All people should joyfully praise God because He rules and judges fairly (67:4).

The people groups of the world, when they come to know God through faith in Jesus Christ, will "be glad" and "sing for joy." The reason that they will respond to God with joyful worship is because God rules over this world and He judges with justice. Unlike tyrannical dictators or malevolent kings, God is a just and holy Sovereign. He rules the people groups of the world, guiding all people on earth whether or not they're aware of His caring hand. God is at work throughout the world. He makes His presence known to all who seek Him. For this reason all peoples should gladly praise Him with joy. For this reason, likewise, God's people should long to elevate the joyful praise of God among all people.

**As God's people we long to expand the
reverence of God throughout the world (67:5-7).**

Along with the knowledge and joy of God, those who know Him will want to expand the reverence of God throughout the world. All people groups should learn to reverently fear God, the one who provides and blesses.

God's people should long for all the people groups in the world to praise Him (67:5).

As in verse 3 the psalmist expresses his desire that all the people groups of the world might praise God. God is worthy of praise, and for our own good as well as His glory we should invite others into a worshipful, joyful relationship with Him.

When God blesses His people the fear of God will reach to the ends of the earth (67:6-7).

Psalm 67 begins with a prayer for God to bless His people. That blessing on His people would prompt others to seek and follow God. When others around the world seek and follow God, God grants further blessings. For example, God allows the land, probably a reference here to the Promised Land, to yield its harvest. God blesses His people with abundance, abundant spiritual blessings. The psalmist refers to God as “our” God, emphasizing the spiritual unity among believers from all nations throughout the world. The psalmist then concludes with an expression of anticipation. “God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.” To fear God is to revere Him, obey Him, and enjoy Him. God has blessed all the nations of the earth by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as redeemer and Lord. God had promised to bless all the nations of the earth through Abraham, and it's through Abraham's greatest descendant, Jesus, that we have salvation, blessing, and joy. For this reason God's people must share God's heart for the blessing of all people on earth.