

## Psalm 117

### Worldwide Praise for the God Who Displays Himself in Salvation

#### **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 • Read Psalm 117**

*Questions from the from the Scripture text: With what command does v1 begin? Whom are they to praise? Who is being commanded? How many of them? What is the second command? Whom are they to magnify? Who is being commanded? How many of them? For which attribute of His in v2a? And what quality of that attribute? Toward whom? And which attribute of His in v2b? And what quality of that attribute? How does v2c conclude/summarize his psalm?*

**Who should praise YHWH and why?** Psalm 117 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **all nations and all peoples should praise and magnify YHWH, especially for His covenant love and faithfulness.**

The shortest Psalm, indeed the shortest chapter, in the Bible is a powerful and enduring command, "[y'all] Praise YHWH!"

All nations are being commanded to praise, and all peoples are being commanded to exalt.

This is why all things existed in the first place, and why all things have ever happened: for His glory. All things are from Him and through Him and to Him. To Him be the glory forever, Amen!

But there is one great thing, and forever thing, that stands out as that for which the whole new creation will praise and magnify God forever and ever: His covenant relation to His people, and His covenant redemption of that people, in which His glorious character is most displayed.

Notice that although it is "all you Gentiles" and "all you peoples" who are being commanded to worship YHWH in v1, it is "toward us" that the gloriously great covenant love has occasioned this praise.

This reminds us of how the four living creatures in Rev 5:8, and indubitably all of heaven as implied by the connection to Rev 4:6-11, worship YHWH and/as the Lamb not only for His creating all things (Rev 4:11) but especially for His redeeming the saints to God by His blood (Rev 5:9) and for having completed the application of that redemption by making them kings and priests unto God (Rev 5:10).

It is especially for the display of His glory in accomplishing and applying redemption that all creatures (and therefore all nations and all peoples) are to give to God everlasting praise. This would indeed be true even if He had only ever saved one tribe, one tongue, one people, and one nation. But, this pan-national praise is bolstered all the more, because the "us" in v2 is "out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (cf. Rev 5:9).

In redeeming the elect, the Lord highlights especially two of His attributes: His goodness (in covenant love) and truth (in covenant faithfulness). The covenant love in v2a and covenant faithfulness in v2b are the same two attributes of which He declares himself to abound in Ex 34:6, and of which believers see Jesus to be full when they behold His glory (cf. Jn 1:14).

Indeed, all of God's glorious attributes always hold together. He is everything that He is in all of His infinite being; there are not any parts in God. But in the display of His glory to us, it is especially in His covenant mercy that He is pleased to display the riches/richness of that glory (cf. Rom 9:23).

He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all of His attributes, and that comes out in v2. His covenant love is great (v2a), but indeed He is infinite in all of His attributes. His covenant faithfulness endures forever (v2b), but indeed His is eternal and unchangeable in all of His attributes.

And in response to this, all of His creatures will praise and magnify Him, increasingly, forever (v2c)!

How has God most displayed His covenant love? How/when do you most lay hold of this and respond to it? How has God most displayed His covenant faithfulness? How/when do you most lay hold of this and respond to it? In what other ways has He been displaying His love in your life? In what other ways has He been displaying His faithfulness in your life? How do you respond now? How will you respond forever? With whom else should you be looking forward to doing this?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You from our tribes and tongues and peoples and nations. We magnify You for the greatness of Your covenant love and the eternality of Your covenant faithfulness. In that love and faithfulness, help us by Your holy Spirit to praise You and magnify You through Christ, now and forever, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP117B "O All You Nations of the Earth" or TPH117B "Praise the LORD God, All You Nations"**

**(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](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Psalm 117. These are God's words. Praise y'all for all you Gentiles laud him. All you, peop. For his merciful, kindness is great towards us. And the truth of Yahweh endures forever. Praise. So, for the reading of God, Inspired and iner into word. This. Brief Psalm indeed the shortest chapter in the Bible.

Is basically one great command. Y'all praise Yahweh. Or praise. Ye

That's the No command, and you have the The the secondary subsidiary command laud him, exalt him magnify him. All you peoples in the second part of verse one. Then you have the reasoning for it. And the first two parts of verse two, Uh, with the conclusion, just repeating the command Uh, praise Yahweh.

This is the reason all things exist, all things. Are from him and through him and to him. Uh, to him. The glory forever. And you notice who is praising him. It's not just all his people. It's All Nations. Praise yahy, all you Gentiles. Lord him all you peoples. So not just one tribe or tongue.

Um, The or nation. Yeah, but all tribes tongues peoples. And Nations will praise him. And this happens, because His dealings, with his people. He displays his character. And he gathers, then into his people by this display of his character. All those whom he is redeeming. Has Hassett and Emmett here.

Translated, merciful, kindness and Truth. Are that steadfast love and faithfulness that Covenant love and Covenant faithfulness. That when the Lord declares his own name, To Moses in Exodus 34. He declares himself to be full of, Uh, and translating, um, Or quoting the same as the Greek translation of that text.

That the Evangelist tells us in John chapter 1. That when Jesus the word became flesh and dwelt Among Us, he was full of grace and Truth. And so God makes display of himself and his Redemption. In redeeming his people. Uh, and even in Those whom he has redeemed or begun redeeming, he makes display of himself to those of uh of other nations, those who are not yet saved and what they ought to see when they see.

Um, Those whom the Lord is as redeemed and gathered to himself. Is not the people so much but by way of the people, they should see. The Lord himself. And so, This is a great thing for. Believers to know about themselves. That Yahweh's Covenant, love has been great towards us.

Not that we are great. Not that his Covenant love has been great towards us. And his faithfulness of course, endures forever. And since his faithfulness endures forever and his Covenant love endures forever. Those who are the objects of that love and that faithfulness must therefore also endure forever. As they have become.

The objects. The recipients Of a love and a faithfulness. Uh, that in order to be properly expressed and glorified must go forever and ever. And so we will praise Forever and ever. With every tribe and with redeemed, from every tribe. And And people and Nation. Because salvation is about the glory.

Of the Lord who displays himself and his character. In doing that saving. This is our highest privilege and our highest pleasure. To praise him to know him, to delighten him. And we are. Um, the redeemed are most highly honored. By the fact that God's glory is displayed upon them.

Which means that we're even humbled, by the way that we are honored and we're glad to be so That we might exalt him that we might laud.

The Lord give us to do that, not just In eternity and not just have that as the goal of the end of our life. But to Rejoice to be glad that we get. To participate already. To sample already day by day. And participate in ahead of time. That prays for which we have been created.

And then to which we have been Redeemed, It's bright. Our Father, we thank you and praise you for This little song with the big message, As it has reminded us of The purpose of everything and especially Our own purpose and the purpose of our Redemption. We pray that you had got much Glory Lord.

For. Infinite. Uh, Covenant love and your Eternal. And unchangeable Covenant faithfulness. Particularly, as you have. Expressed them upon us. And saving us. So receive the praise. The worship to honor the Adoration. Of which you are worthy, we ask. In Jesus name, amen.