

Psalm 67:1-7

As Christians, we glory in God's majestic works: His works of Creation and Providence and supremely God's work of Redemption.

The message of the gospel is all about what God has done for sinners uniquely and completely through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Whilst the message of the gospel is not about us, the spreading of the gospel is a work in which we participate.

The world-wide spread of the Gospel was anticipated in the Old Testament through the joyful plea of Psalm 67.

Summary

Psalm 67 is a missionary psalm in which the psalmist prays for God's rich blessing to shine on His people so that they may spread the message of the Lord's great salvation throughout the earth.

1. Divine Shining Face vs. 1

Psalm 67 begins with a benediction (**Psalm 67:1**).

These words echo the familiar Aaronic priestly benediction: **Num. 6:24-26**

This benediction draws on the ancient idea of a "shining face," which conveyed favor, acceptance, and love. It is the opposite of a frowning face that is angry or a face that is turned away in rejection.

The biblical idea of blessing challenges the shallow aspirations of many believers today. God does provide for the material needs of his people, but true blessing is so much greater than possessing such earthly things.

As sinners, we deserve malediction not benediction. That is we all deserve; not blessing but the curse of God's wrathful and righteous rejection (**Deut 28:16-20**).

The only person in all history who did not deserve to be cursed in this way is the one person who personally, perfectly and perpetually obeyed God's holy law (**Matt. 17:5**).

On the basis of his Father's approval and acceptance with his perfection, Jesus was able to offer himself as the substitute and sacrifice in the place of his people, so that the blessing of God that he alone deserved might shine on the people whose sins and curse he bore.

When the psalmist prayed, "May God be gracious to us and bless us" (**Psalm 67:1**), he was looking to the saving grace that God would provide through Jesus Christ.

2. Purposed Evangelism vs. 2

The psalmist continues in vs. 2 to proclaim the purpose of God's blessing in the lives of his saved people (**Psalm 67:2**).

God has revealed himself to his people so that through them He might further reveal Himself throughout the earth. This means that those who have escaped the curse of

sin through the death of Jesus Christ are called by God to witness to this salvation message to their fellow sinners in the world.

Psalm 67 shows that God's people in the OT possessed this noble calling.

Psalm 67 also shows the two primary ways in which believers spread the gospel.

First, the psalmist desires that "your way may be known on earth" (**Ps. 67:2**).

The calling of Christians is to reveal this way of salvation through our witness of the gospel to the world. Are you playing your part in this great work?

Secondly, God's people are to spread the gospel by the living testimony of our transformed lives. Is the transforming power of the Gospel seen in your life?

3. Peoples' Praise vv. 3-5

The psalmist pleads for the nations to "be glad and sing for joy" under God's gracious rule (**Psalm 67:4**). This exclamation is bookended by a repeated call for God's glory:

"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you" (**Psalm 67:3, 5**).

God's praise is the highest motive in evangelism.

Those who honor God in faith, however, are also filled with a resulting joy and spiritual blessing (**Psalm 67:4**). The psalmist looks forward to the time when the nations will be glad and sing for joy through faith in Christ.

4. Lord's Harvest vv. 6-7

Psalm 67 concludes: "The earth has yielded its increase" (**67:6**).

Speaking of future events as an accomplished work, the psalmist is certain of God's blessing his people in their labor of spreading the gospel.

In this way, Psalm 67 looks forward to the coming of Christ, who not only announced the Great Commission for worldwide evangelism but through his sovereign reign has already guaranteed the full harvest.

A harvest never rises from the ground by itself but always relies on God's blessing. So, too, as God blesses his people in their gospel witness, the psalmist looks forward to a glorious day of worldwide praise to the Lord: "Let all the ends of the earth fear him" (**Psalm 67:7**).

What part of the great harvest is being brought in through your life?

According to Psalm 67, the small beginning that yields a harvest is the plea for God's glorious face to shine in our own lives: "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us" (**Ps. 67:1**).

If you will earnestly pray for God to reveal his glory to your heart through his Word and if you will make your relationship with God the top priority in your life, then through you, God will make his way known and will cause his saving power to be felt by people around you.

Who can tell what the effect will be in your family, in your workplace, among your friends and neighbors, and even in distant lands.

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