

****READ THE TEXT****

67 God be gracious to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us— *Selah*.

² That Your way may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
For You will judge the peoples with uprightness
And guide the nations on the earth. *Selah*.

⁵ Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

⁶ The earth has yielded its produce;
God, our God, blesses us.

⁷ God blesses us,
That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- ***John Piper is exactly right:***
 - Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man.
 - So worship is the fuel and goal in missions. We want the nations to be brought into this white-hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God (Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, 11).
- ***A man named DAVID BRAINERD***, a missionary to the American Indians in New Jersey, New York, and E. Pennsylvania in 1700's died at the age of 29 and he could be called: "***the father of modern missions.***"
 - He would have been considered a real risk by modern mission-boards and probably rejected from being a missionary because of his illnesses.

Lord's Day, April 25. This morning I spent about two hours in secret duties and was enabled more than ordinarily to agonize for immortal souls. Though it was early in the morning and the sun scarcely shined at all, yet my body was quite wet with sweat...

Saturday, December 15. Spent much time in prayer in the woods and seemed raised above the things of this world...

Monday, March 14 ...in the morning was almost continually engaged in ejaculatory prayer...

Thursday, August 4. Was enabled to pray much, through the whole day...

Thursday, November 3. Spent this day in secret fasting, and prayer, from morning till night...

Lord's Day, December 29 ...After public worship was over, I went to my house, proposing to preach again after a short season of intermission. But they soon came in one after another; with tears in their eyes, to know, "what they should do to be saved..." It was an amazing season of power among them, and seemed as if God had "bowed the heavens and come down..." and that God was about to convert the whole world.

The NEED? The desire for God’s glory to be known!?

David Guzik says it well: This Psalm has a heart to see God’s way, God’s salvation, and God’s praise extended all through the earth.

Background to Ps 67

Themes: The theme of the psalm is simple: God’s passion is for “**Let ALL the peoples praise you**” (vv.3, 5 = identical!). This constructs a theme. Then the verse sandwiched between this refrain (v.4) shows *why* they must praise/rejoice—God is coming to judge!

- But there is another theme involved as well: **God blesses His people so that all the earth may know & fear God!**

GOD BLESSES US IN ORDER FOR US TO MAKE HIM KNOWN!

- This is a psalm, an outpouring of the heart of a worshiper who longs to see the God & King of Israel acknowledged, worshiped, & hailed as the God & King of the whole world!

Our global God longs to be praised among the nations!

This psalm is devotional & theological masterpiece.

Genesis 12:1-3 & Numbers 6:24-26 permeate this psalm!

I divide the psalm by the *Selah*’s (end of v.1 & v.4)

I. GOD’S GRACE & BLESSING LAUNCHES MISSIONS (1)

Genesis 15 & Numbers 6 bring this out!

The mindset of missions comes from the mercy of God received & the blessing of God enjoyed & the desire for the lost to be saved.

The first word rightly begins a study on missions—**GOD**.

a. Show your grace!

- i. The blessing of God is the God-given enhancement of life, the bestowing of gifts which bear witness to the salvific presence of God (Kraus, 41).
- ii. Very simply: the blessing from God is the **active help** of God Himself. Thus, the presence of God comes with his blessing (Tate, 157).
- iii. Every believer knows this & has this!

b. Shine your goodness!

- i. Let God’s face *give light* (=shine) upon us. The gracious goodness, the kind direction. May the pleasure of God be with/upon us.

c. This is where Global Missions must begin—the grace of God, the blessing of God & the pleasure of God.

- i. This is the local church’s passion - evangelism, missions, proclaiming Truth.

- ii. Note the psalmist first prays for this for himself before he gives it to others (in vv.2ff).

"Since God is a missionary God, God's people are a missionary people." — Eddy Ho
I pray that God's grace & blessing (and in all our hearts) would raise up an army of *missionaries!*

Many we send, many who stay but *we all together serve our global God to receive global praise from peoples around the globe!*

Let God's grace & blessing launch missions!

II. GOD'S SALVATION & JUSTICE DEMANDS MISSIONS (2-4)

The great salvation & redemption provides the passion a child of God needs to lose everything related to self to gain everything for God's glory!

Missions isn't about this or that place, people group, country, language, etc. *it's about God & His salvation offered to those who otherwise will meet the just Judge.*

It's about God receiving glory as His salvation spreads like wildfire.

- a. The Purpose (v.2)
 - i. So that God's way & God's salvation is known in the earth & among the nations!
Go and make disciples of *all nations* (Matt 28:19)
 - ii. Let repentance and forgiveness of sins be proclaimed in His name to **all the nations** (Luke 24:47).
 - iii. As the Father has sent me, I also **send** you (John 20:21)
 - iv. You are my **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the **remotest part of the earth** (Acts 1:8).
 - v. Let this mystery of the gospel be known to **all the nations** leading to the obedience of faith (Rom 16:26).
 - vi. Christ has purchased for God men from **every tribe and tongue and people and nation** (Rev 5:9).
- b. The Praise (v.3-4)
 - i. Let the peoples praise/give thanks—*all of them*
 - ii. This seems to be a kind of **refrain/chorus** (v.3, 5) in this psalm—emphasis, repetition, prominence.
- c. *Note the somber tone, the purpose & the urgency!*
 - i. V.4b – the LORD will judge the peoples.
 - ii. Note the **REASON** ('because); the **JUDGE** ('God/you), the **RECIPIENTS** of this judgment (peoples), the **STERNNESS** of this judgment (you judge w/ equity).

But there is one message: true joy is in Jesus.
True gladness is found at the Cross.
True worship is found in Christ's redemption.

And for God’s people, there is 1 mission.

1 Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, *so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

III. GOD’S GLORY & GREATNESS SUSTAINS MISSIONS (5-7)

An exalted view of God should compel the believer to do great things for God!

Can’t you do *more* for God? God doesn’t *need* us—but God receives Glory *in using* us. Give more! Share more! Go more! Tell more!

a. God’s Glory & Provision (5-6)

- i. God has given fruit in the earth (crops)
- ii. God blesses! God gives it!

b. God’s Greatness & Reverence (7)

- i. Let God bless SO THAT all the ends of the earth may **fear Him!**
Psalm 22:27 – all the ends of the earth will turn to you.
Isa 52:10 – all the ends of the earth see the salvation of the LORD as revealed in the Messiah!
Isa 45:22 – turn to me and be saved all you ends of the earth!
One day in the Kingdom all nations will come.
One day in heaven Jesus will be worshiped.
But let us be busy doing this work NOW.

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." (Henry Martyn, missionary to India and Persia)

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Jesus is supreme over cultural boundaries.
- Jesus is supreme over ethnic differences.
- Jesus is supreme over linguistic/language variances.
- Jesus is supreme because He died to save *His people* from the upright, just and deserved judgment of God.
 - Let the nations be glad! But we must proclaim a great Savior to all peoples. We must send missionaries who know & proclaim this Savior!
- **Piper writes:** “Worship therefore is the fuel and goal in missions ... the goal of missions is gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God.”