

Psalm 67

Blessed to be a Blessing

Psa 67 Anonym > Sovereign Lordship of God

1. Prayer

v. 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us

God Bless Us >>> GOD HELP!

Offered by ALL PEOPLE for ALL NEEDS

God OUR HELPER > From Day of Birth – Every Day of Life

God of the Bible > Our God is a Wonderful, Loving and Kind God.

Prayer > God will do 3 things:

1) Be merciful 2) Bless 3) Cause His face to shine upon us.

When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.
Proverbs 16.15

KING of UNIVERSE receives you w/ HIS SMILE

Mercy: God DOES NOT Give what we DESERVE

Grace: God DOES give what we DO NOT Deserve

Goodness of God > No limits in its Scope

Lord blesses His people spiritually and physically, specifically and cosmically.

COME to GOD in PRAYER: Today, Here, Home, thru ALL Days of Life
Don't just be PERSON who says "Oh, I will pray for you!" PRAY NOW!

Prayer > Whole Earth is God's Embassy > It ALL Belongs to HIM

Pray on Street – Classroom – Home – Workplace – Shops – Subway

Pray Everywhere because GOD is WITH US Everywhere – All the TIME

2. Promise

v. 7 God WILL Bless us

v. 6 The land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

37 Yrs Ago – Crazy Calif / Beautiful Hawaiian > Began life together w/ Psa 67

Three Sons – All MADE in Africa

1984 Abp Silvanus Wani – 1st born Son Prayed > Kakwa name 'Adoke' GIFT

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. Psalm 16.5,6

OUR Boundary Lines have INDEED fallen in PLEASANT PLACES

8 yrs in PEARL of Africa – Even if they were years of CIVIL WAR

7 yrs in HILO BAY on the island of HAWAII

11 years Living at Foot of MAJESTIC Tien Shan mtns in Kazakhstan
Now have Granddaughter that Speeds down those mtns on SKIS

10 years here in this CITY full of Challenges and Opportunities

MOST Pleasant is Being PART of God's Family on all those FIELDS / Serving

12 years ago – Read this Psalm to Oldest Son & Wife, performed Marriage

Now have 2 young boys of their Own – Family Following the LORD

GOD will BLESS Us > Way beyond All we could ASK or IMAGINE

GOD is RELIABLE > PROMISE KEEPER

GIFTS of God are JUST THAT > GIFTS, Undeserved, Unmerited, Freely Given

ACADEMICS about MERIT > You Studied, Passed Exams, Wrote Papers

You can PAT Yourself on Back and say “I DID it! Good Job to Me!”

NOT So the Gospel > Failed God’s Test, Never Wrote Paper, Missed Classes!

Nothing was EARNED, Nothing to CLAIM > But still Get...

ETERNAL Life Degree > and because He Loves Us also ABUNDANT Life!

God’s logic is very different from ours. We assume that the circumstances must be right if we are to be really effective Christians. But God is not waiting for the circumstances to be right; he is committed to producing really effective Christians, whatever their circumstances may be. Sinclair Ferguson

PROMISE Spans ALL NATIONS > ALL GENERATIONS

Psalm LOOKS BACK to Abrahamic Covenant

I will bless you...and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12.2

LOOKS FORWARD to X’s kingdom with People from ALL NATIONS in Him

PROMISES from GOD > Sure, Certain, Reliable, Trustworthy

NOT PRINTOUTS from HEAVEN with HOURLY UPDATES

WHY – MORE PEOPLE read Astrological HOROSCOPES than BIBLE

Want to KNOW --- EXACTLY – What to DO? Where to GO?

QUESTIONS Answered from OUIJI Boards, DIVINERS in Bazaars

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY is a LIFE OF FAITH

KNOW Where we are GOING – Not sure WHEN or HOW we get There

Like those LONG AIRPLANE Flight back to DISTANT HOMELANDS

TIRED of More Movies, More Food, More Soft Drinks

ASK ‘Are we there yet?’ / ‘How much LONGER?’ > I want to GET HOME!

Jesus: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10.10

WHAT IS THIS FULLNESS? WHAT IS THIS ABUNDANT LIFE?

- NOT necessarily a LONG LIFE some will, some die young, tragically
- NOT necessarily a PROTECTED LIFE believers pass through sorrows, famine, even torture at times
- NOT necessarily a PIOUS LIFE > not everything is a miracle, blessing, or hallelujah > some days are hard, uneventful, even boring

The Abundant Life is above all the contended life, our contentment is based on the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. James Boice

3. Peoples

Mission Psalm: Jew & Gentile together praise God

“nations” - 3 X's / “earth” - 4 X's / “peoples” 5 X's

OPERATION World – Prayer for EVERY NATION

Psalm > Prayer that ALL those Tribes will be at Wedding Feast of His Son

Psalm > Promise that Gospel will Not Fail, Church will be BUILT Everywhere

Prayer > Gospel, God’s ‘way,’ GO GLOBAL

Psalmist STRONG Confidence:

God will be praised by all the peoples of the nations.

Repetition > Great, NEW EVENT *Let the people praise you;*

Let all the people praise you

Anticipates glorious gathering round Throne of God

“a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Revelation 7.9-10

“When he says, Let all the peoples praise You... he means: let all the peoples know that there is one true and living God, and let them stop serving and praising all other gods. If this were not true, if this were not the purpose of God, then missions would be the most audacious and presumptuous enterprise in the world. But if it is true, then missions is the humble response of a people who love the lost.”

John Piper

One of SADDEST Things about PROSPERITY Theology – Makes God Small
God becomes PERSONAL Genie in Bottle – His Job is to PLEASE YOU!

God’s Purposes much BIGGER and More GLORIOUS Your Selfish WANTS
God’s Purpose is HIS GLORY – Proclaimed by Every, Tribe, Tongue, People
Our Greatest JOY is when we are WORKING With Him to that Glorious END

Let all peoples know the one true and living God

“God bless me, but not for me, but for the nations!

God bless us, but not for us, but for the nations!”

4. Person

BLESSING on People of Israel >> esp on THE SON of Abraham, David

Traveled World > TROUBLES > Crisis, Fears

Heard People of all Faiths Call in Whispers and Screams Name of ‘JESUS’

When STUDY Bible Remember 2 Important Things –

1. Human Setting AND 2. Divine Author

1. Human Setting – What is the original author saying to the original audience?

Psalm calls Faithful HEBREWS to BLESS & TRUST the God of ISRAEL

2. Divine Author – How does this text fit into the big story of God in Jesus?

BLESSING > Look BACK to Abraham

BLESSING > Look FORWARD to Jesus

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
Galatians 3.14

SON of GOD > EMMANUEL > Blessing of God FOUND in HIM

BIBLE Climaxes with Story of ONE MAN

BLESSED is He who Comes in NAME OF LORD

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.
John 1.16

You might say – How does a Psalm written 1000 yrs before Jesus BIRTH

Teach about JESUS? – Very Simple HE is the DIVINE AUTHOR

When JESUS came to EARTH He DEFINED Himself & Mission by PSALM 40

When Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” Hebrews 10.5-7

COMMENDED Jewish Leaders for their ACADEMIC DILIGENCE

But Warns they STAND CONDEMNED for missing Main Point of Scripture

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me John 5.39

We REMEMBER that Jesus spent Easter Afternoon leading Bible Study in Village named EMMAUS outside of Jerusalem...

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself... He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24.27,44

SO all the BLESSINGS Anticipated in Psalm 67 are ONLY OURS in JESUS

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.
2 Corinthians 1.20

Praise be to God...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 1.3

GRACE >> God's Riches at Christ's Expense

"The Shining Face of God moves the peoples of the earth to exult in this great God. The praise of their lips finds its source in the joy of their hearts, a joy created there by God Himself. Jesus is that Face." James Boice

5. Praise

Nations called 1) to be glad and 2) sing for joy.

Glad hearts and joyful songs LIFE IN JESUS >

ALL our Holidays & Celebrations on EARTH >> Great Celebration in HEAVEN

North and South, East and West, they praise you.

Rich and poor, young and old, urban and rural, they praise you.

Red and yellow, black and brown, white praise you.

INVITED! > Play your part in great redemptive drama of God and the Nations

GIVE HIS BLESSING! LIVE IN HIS BLESSING!

ULTIMATE AIM is the GLORY of JESUS

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. Philippians 1.20

How COULD we EXALT OUR GREAT BIG JESUS?

To glorify God is to make Him BIG in the eyes of others. African Pastor

The stars are much bigger than a telescope...the believer's body is to be a telescope...To the average person, Jesus Christ is a misty figure in history who lived centuries ago. But as the unsaved watch the believer go through a crisis, they can see Jesus magnified and brought much closer. Warren Wiersbe

We are LENS through which people SEE JESUS and TRUE FAITH in Him

All of LIFE thru CHRIST and IN X – 90 X's P's Letters 'IN Christ'

PAUL'S MOTTO FOR LIFE

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1.21

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14.8

MEANING? Confidence he will go to Heaven?? Yes, Absolutely – MORE!

Live & DIE in Way: POINTS to LIVING SAVIOR > More Come to Faith



Henry Opukaihia – HUMAN Reason there are CHURCHES in HAWAII

Teenage Boy from Islands – Jumped on Merchant Ship – China > USA 1780

Befriended by TIMOTHY DWIGHT – President of Yale College, Pastor

Led to FAITH > Preached in New England

Churches > PHENOMENON

Most WHITE New Englanders never seen BROWN Man > esp. Preacher

God used Henry touch HEARTS > W/ Love for his Hawaiian People

Henry never made it > Died at 27 in NE > Dozens to HI in Henry's Place

M's went to Hawaii in 1820 – by 1850 over 90% of Kingdom of Hawaii Xtian

If the Lord continues to keep us in this life, he means our lives to encourage others to grow as Christians and to bring joy to them...What is my life really for?...Does my life encourage others to grow and rejoice? Sinclair Ferguson

NO RETIREMENT from Christian Service > Change JOB, not Calling

REASON for LIVING > Bring the JOY of Jesus and the Encouragement of the Scriptures into the Lives of Others > If NOT you are NOT LIVING

For me to live is to glorify Christ; that is why, if I die and thereby glorify him, that will be a gain for me, a thing which I desire as it will bring to a close my whole life of service for him.
P. Bonnard

For me to live is _____, to die is _____

For me to live is *__money__*, to die is *_leave it all behind_*

For me to live is *_fame_*, to die is *__to be forgotten__*

For me to live is *__power__*, to die is *__lose it all__*

For me to live is *__CHRIST__*, to die is *__EVEN BETTER!__*

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Numbers 6.24-26

Psalm 67.¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, ²that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁶The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. ⁷God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!