

Psalms 67:1-7
Let the Nations Rejoice
Image Church // Summer in Psalms

Introduction

Good morning Image family it's so good to be able to gather together this morning and to worship our great God together!

I am thankful for the opportunity that I have this morning to stand before you and share God's word with you!

If you don't know me, my name is Bryson Moon and I am one of the pastors here at Image.

I always love when I get the opportunity to share God's word with you, this is always just a sweet, sweet moment for me!

But before we jump in the morning I do want to acknowledge a few things... a lot is happening today...

Today is simultaneously Juneteenth (I will explain in a moment if you are unfamiliar) Fathers Day and my wife's birthday...

which means basically in my house we are skipping Fathers Day this year!!! So I guess I will just have to wait another whole year to get a nap after church, she was kind enough to let me pick lunch so thanks babe

But seriously Happy Birthday Princess, today I celebrate you and the gift that you are!

Today is also Juneteenth - If you are unfamiliar with Juneteenth its ok, you most likely weren't taught it in school but Juneteenth is a second Independence Day of sorts.

June 19 or Juneteenth as it is known commemorates the day in which word had finally spread that all enslaved African Americans were free. You see the emancipation proclamation was issued January 1, 1863 during the civil war, the emancipation proclamation declared all enslaved African Americans free!

However for many in the south freedom didn't come until after the civil war ended almost two years later. And it was even a few months later on June 19, 1865 Union soldiers made their way to Galveston Bay, Texas and enslaved people there heard for the first time that they were free.

And so **Juneteenth celebrates and commemorates** the day in which all people were finally free and brought an end to chattel slavery here in America. Juneteenth has long been celebrated in the African American community and recently made a national holiday.

So today **we lament chattel slavery and the effects that are still felt today** and we celebrate and commemorate those who fought for the abolition of slavery, to see the day in which all were free!

On days like today, we don't want to just give head nods but to genuinely understand the importance of today, and the long, hard road many fought to freedom. While also understanding that the effects of slavery are still being felt today.

There is still much work to be done to heal the divide that still exists today. But I am thankful that we serve a God of reconciliation! Amen

I have one more thing I want to address, really a group of people I want to address Before we jump into our text this morning. I want to recognize our fathers this morning...

Happy Fathers Day to all the dads in here today... can we put our hands together for all the dads this morning!

This morning we celebrate you. We thank you for all you do because fathers are needed, fathers listen, you are needed in your home, in your kids lives

The calling on your life is to be a godly man who loves and serves his wife and shepherds and leads his kids.

Pastor Mike has issued this challenge before and so I want to echo it... you are irreplaceable within your home! No one else can be dad, or husband, only you can do that!¹

Who you are *inside* the home is far more important than who you are *outside* of the home, so don't sacrifice your family on the altar of idols... Cherish today as a reminder of your primary calling- to be a present reflection of Christ in your home!

Lead your family well, and know that we as a church are here to walk alongside you. No one is asking you to have it all figured out. But what is being asked of you is that you pursue Jesus above all else and to lead your family to that end.

And, I know that there are some of you here, and today is tough because you didn't have a dad growing up, or maybe your dad has passed away, or maybe you had a dad, but he was abusive, or maybe he walked out on your family...

Today, I want to point you to a **Heavenly Father** one who will never leave you, and never forsake you, one who loves you unconditionally, one who's approval you will always have...

- One who allowed His own Son to die, so that He could adopt you as His... that's the Father you need to look to today!

I want to take just a min. and pray for our dad's and for those who today, are reminded of the scars or wounds surrounding their dads

Prayer

¹ Chris Pappalardo: The best gift for Dad this Father's Day? Diaper Duty
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/june-web-only/fathers-day-diaper-duty-domestic-life.html>

Well this morning we continue our **Summer in Psalms**, so if you have your Bible go ahead and turn with me to Psalms 67, Psalms 67 is where we will be this morning.

I want to start by simply reading this passage in its entirety and then would love for us to walk through it and to unpack what is being said and what this means for us this morning.

Psalms 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us;

may he make his face shine upon us *Selah*

2 so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations rejoice and shout for joy, for you judge the peoples with fairness and lead the nations on earth. *Selah*

5 Let the peoples praise you, God, let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has produced its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Prayer for our Time this morning

As we jump in I want to give you a quick snapshot of where we are going this morning...

- what does it mean for God to bless us
- how God has blessed us
- God's heart for the nations throughout all of Scripture
- and lastly our response in light of all of this

So Psalms 67 starts with a prayer for blessing, asking God to bless, that in his graciousness he would bless us

But what does it mean for God to bless us??

When we think of blessing what is it that comes to mind? **What does it mean to be blessed?**

Do we instantly think of material things? Money? gifts? its not abnormal to think of that

I can recall multiple times in my life when I have received a gift or a gift card or some cash, especially at a time when things were really tough and money was tight

And I received it and immediately thought man this was such a blessing And don't get me wrong here, receiving such a gift is for sure a blessing, and a means of God's kindness to you that maybe in a moment when you didn't know what you were going to do, God provided.

But I want us to look closely at the text here to understand exactly what it means for God to bless us...

it tells us **“May God be gracious to us and bless us; may he make his face shine upon us”**

What we know is that when God turns or hides his “face” from us it is a sign of judgement or discipline - it is why we see David say in Psalms 27 “how long will you hide your face from me”

So in the prayer for blessing asking for God to make his face shine upon us - **this is a sign of blessing or favor**

So what is the blessing... **well it is God himself**... what does it mean for God to bless us, for his face to shine on us - to know God, to be in his presence

For God to shine his favor upon us, the greatest blessing there is in this life is God himself.

To know God, to be with him, to love and adore him - that is how we are blessed

But be honest, when we look for blessing we are looking for something tangible, something that maybe God does for us, or gives us

One pastor says it this way, **“what makes God’s blessing so unique is that it doesn't just satisfy our felt needs, its satisfying at a soul level”²**

Sit with this for a moment, and let it sink in, internalize this truth

Yes, God is our provider, I am positive that each of you can testify to all the ways that God has provided for you and your family, how he showed up when you didn't know how things were going to work out

And we should praise God for his provision because it is in fact from Him...

But the greatest blessing that we have in this world, the greatest blessing that we can ever experience is God himself!

To know God, to be with him, to walk with him, to pursue him is the greatest thing we could ever do. All of the needs we might have and yet what we need the most is to be satisfied in him

This is our greatest blessing... but notice that vs one flows directly into vs 2

vs 2 **“so that your way maybe be known on earth, your salvation among all nations”**

notice here to the first two words of vs 2... SO THAT

God be gracious and bless us, shine your face upon us... why???

So that the ways of God, that salvation will be known among the nations.

We are blessed, to then be a blessing... not so that we have more, not so that we can be comfortable, its not because you work hard and you earn

We are blessed to then be a blessing

But again see what is happening around blessing... everything is pointing to the reality that the way in which we are blessed and to then be a blessing to the nations is so we all would know God,

²[“A Blessing that Overflows”](#) Trevor Joy

we will know his ways and find salvation and that the nations will know God, know his ways and find salvation

It's not so we can be happy, live lives of comfort and luxury, so that we can have all our hearts desire, the perfect little life trouble free and worry free

Its not the job you desire, or the house you want, or a number in your bank account

We are blessed to be a blessing, and the blessing we have been given is God himself, and what it means to be a blessing is to make the ways of God and the means of salvation known to the nations

picking up in vs 3

3 Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations rejoice and shout for joy, for you judge the peoples with fairness and lead the nations on earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, God, let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has produced its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Let all the peoples praise you - all people - let the nations rejoice- every tongue, tribe and nation

God judges with fairness, he leads the nations on earth

let all people everywhere praise God... Our God blesses us, He blesses us and because of it all the ends of the earth will fear him

What we are seeing here in this passage is that **God blesses us and then sends us**

And I want to spend our remaining time this morning unpacking this... doing my best to help us understand the heart of God for the nations!!!

I want you to think about this for a second... that God, who is all powerful, all knowing, in control of all things, created all things

he merely spoke the world into existence, he has perfect love, He is holy, and just and righteous, he is all of that and more

Decided that the means by which salvation would be proclaimed to the nations, the good news of the gospel, the saving power of Jesus Christ would be done through his people, through us...

I mean lets be real here... think about how lazy you are, how easily distracted you are, how sinful and broken you are (*im saying you, but dont worry Im not excluding myself from this*) I am all of it and more

Think about how many times we trust in idols, or we move God out of his rightful place and we pursue other things

Like this list could go on and on but think about that - and think about who God is and let it sink in that he has chosen us to be his ambassadors to the world

If i am honest it does not make sense to me?? **No, seriously like "hey God, I know you are all powerful and all knowing but um are you sure about this?" That's your plan ??**

And yet it is his plan... we say here at Image that the church is God's plan A for reaching the world

Its plan A and there is no plan B

And so i want to lay before you the task, the mandate the calling of all believers before you **but before I do, I want to answer one question**

How is that possible? How is it possible that based on who God is and the reality of who we are that God's plan for seeing all people praise him is us?

The answer - well that is the beauty of the gospel - the beauty of the gospel that saves sinners, that transforms lives, that brings dead people back to life, new life in Christ

You see ever since the fall in Genesis God promised a deliverer, he promised to send one who would come to save us from our sin

The entire Old Testament is telling a story, God's story of his love for his people and a promise, a promise that one day someone would come to fulfill that promise

The promise that was made to Abraham, God made a covenant with Abraham, God says I am going to bless you, and through you I am going to bless the world

God told Abraham that through him all the peoples of the world would be blessed... **so this blessing that we are reading here in Psalms 67 is anchored in Genesis 12**

When God made this promise to Abraham!

And through Abraham a day would come in which the Savior of the world would be born

Ok... so bear with me because I am setting up for you something that is pivotal for us to see...

So you have the fall... Adam and Eve sin in the garden and we are in the moment all peoples, anyone and everyone to ever be born we are separated from God

But God being rich in mercy, and looking down on us with love says I know you messed this all up, I know you sinned and now you are separated from me

But I love you, I love you more than you could ever even imagine and so I am preparing a way for you, I am going to send someone... someone who is going bridge the gap, someone who will stand in the gap

Who will be the ultimate sacrifice for your sin... who is going to come to earth and will be born into the world

And you know how you have sinned, and how you fall short constantly... its ok he wont... he will live the perfect life that you are incapable of living

And through his life he is going to show you how you should live.. and even though he is perfect... even though he is without sin... he is going to go to

the cross... on his way he will be beaten and bruised and tortured on your behalf

But He will willingly go to the cross and he will die... and even though that should be your punishment for your sin he is going to take it for you... but wait

Just when you thought all hope was lost and thought what kind of plan is this... He will raise three days later victorious over sin and death

And before he goes he will give a mandate for all his followers on what they should give their lives to...

So how is it that God's plan A for reaching the world is us???

It's that we are a people who are fully aware of who we are and what we are like. We completely recognize our sinfulness and our brokenness

But, but because of Jesus, because of what he alone has done we know now that we are sinners saved by grace, and in looking back and seeing what God has done for us

In seeing Jesus for who his, and being so overwhelmed by the goodness of God, rocked by his grace and mercy that he has lavished on us

Standing amazed by the love of our Father that he would send his son to rescue us and deliver us

And the realization that that is the blessing - that because of who God is and all that he has done we are blessed

With joy, we set out to be a blessing to others -

and to be a blessing to others is to for us to know him and find our satisfaction in him and to then proclaim the gospel among all nations

So that all the peoples praise him!

I told you that I wanted to help unpack for you this morning God's heart for the nations

But I don't believe that we can truly understand or even care about the nations until we first are so overtaken by the majesty of God, the goodness of God

Until we love him for who he is and what he has done for us... until we are consumed with love for him that we respond by gladly laying down our lives for the sake of the gospel

to the point of giving up everything and going to the nations to proclaim good news

But there is a danger that we must be aware of... as David Platt says " *We are prone to disconnect God's blessing in our lives from God's purpose for our lives*"

Meaning, for most of us - the blessing we have received from God of grace, we have centered that on ourselves...

For most Christians in America specifically, we have put a period between vs 1 and 2 - **may God be gracious to us and bless us, may he make his face shine upon us** ...period

But there is no period - it flows right to SO THAT... SO THAT! the blessing we have received is not meant to just be received and some how hoarded

But we have been blessed so that the nations might be blessed... but instead we find ourselves sitting still, living our nice comfortable lives, in pursuit of the careers we want, the home we want, the car we would like to drive

The right schools for our kids, the right sports teams, - I am not equating these as bad things

My wife and I just bought a house

its just so easy to center life on ourselves in our little corner of the universe... we have made this life about ourselves

We have even made christianity about ourselves... we live this life as if we are in control of it and as if it belongs to us!

We do what we want to do, we live how we want to live... we buy what we want, we work where we want, we live, maybe we serve and give however fits best for us

And we relegate the things of God to a small part in the corner and fit it in where we can, if we do at all...

church please be honest... I need us to be honest with ourselves and with each other...

I refuse to believe that I am the only one - I am a pastor and elder and still sometimes I find it hard to follow Jesus

Some days I just don't feel like reading my Bible, some days I don't want to serve my wife and I don't want to love others, I don't want to serve or give my time or my money

And i need to be reminded of the greatness of our God, his goodness and his faithfulness and I need to be reminded of what he has done and that He is worthy of my praise and worthy of my life

BUT here is what we need to know... **God is about his glory and we were created for his glory**

And what we see here in PSalms 67 is that ultimately what brings God glory is that all the peoples praise him

God's blessing doesn't stop with us, but flows through us and to the nations...

Right now there are over **6,000 ethnic groups** who have never heard the name of Jesus, they have never heard the good news of the gospel

These are not groups who have heard and reject Christ, but they have never even heard his name!³

Pastor Mike tells us all the time, we have not just been saved from something but to something

And what we have been saved to, is a mission. A mandate that Jesus gave in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples of all nations

His last words to his disciples in Acts 1:8 is that they would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth

But this wasn't new... God's desire for the nations to know Him is found throughout the entire Bible

I read this from David Platt recently and it really helped me to see this much bigger picture of God's heart for the nations... typically our minds go straight to the passages I just mentioned

Matthew 28 or Acts 1 but the reality is that all of Scripture is shouting it with it culminating in Revelation 7...

God is for his glory and what brings God glory is every nation praising him

We see this from the beginning, even from the **covenant that God makes with Abraham**, "I will make you into a great nation and will bless you, and through you I will bless the world"(Gen. 12:1-3)

To his son Isaac, "I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky, I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring" (Gen 26:4)

To Isaac's son Jacob, "Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out toward the west, the east, the north and the south. All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring (Gen 28:14)

³ Exalting Jesus in Psalms pg149

We see in the Exodus of God's people from Egypt, God is glorified and the Egyptians learn that God is the Lord almighty⁴

"God blessed his people for his glory and for his praise among all the peoples"⁵

God gave Israel the law so that in their following his commandments they would show his goodness and wisdom to the surrounding nations

In made **Solomon** the wisest man to ever live and the Queen of Sheba upon seeing that it was true, responds by saying "Blessed be the Lord your God"

In Daniel, **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** our thrown in the furnace, yet nothing happens to them, not even a hair on their head burned and the king responds in praise to God

When **Daniel is thrown in the lions den**, King Darius decrees that everyone in the kingdom must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel

"**In Isaiah 43:1-6** it speaks of blessings upon blessing for his people but the very next verse says his people were "created for his glory"

And in Ezekiel God says why he was going to act on behalf of his people, for his name sake among the nations

In Luke, it tells us that Jesus died and rose again so that the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations

In Acts we are told the Holy Spirit will come and you will receive power, why? So that you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth

⁴ Exalting Jesus in Psalms pg149

⁵ Exalting Jesus in Psalms pg149

Paul tells us in Galatians that he has been saved and called to preach the gospel to the gentiles and to the church in Rome he says, “ My aim is to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named”⁶

So why take the time to walk through all of this (and just know these are just small samples of many other passages all through out the OT, but why tell you all this??

But why highlight these??? Because it is imperative that we see this simple but hard to walk out truth...

God is for his glory, and he has saved you to be a blessing, and the way that you will be a blessing is by taking the good news of the gospel, the message that Jesus is the savior of the world, taking that message to the nations...

We have to understand God’s heart to see all peoples praise him...

To follow Jesus is to be about the mission of God - and we were created for a purpose and that purpose is for his glory - and his glory among the nations...

And I need us to understand the scope and magnitude of the situation

According to the Joshua Project there are 17, 427 people groups in the world... out of those 17,000... **there is an estimated 7,414 unreached people groups**

7.9 billion people in the world and **3.3 billion of them are unreached** but understand this... that doesnt mean the other 4 billion know Jesus, it means they have been reached on some level or there is some sort of gospel access

but over 3 billion people have never heard the name of Jesus... they don’t know who Jesus even is, they have not even had the opportunity to believe

⁶ Exalting Jesus in Psalms pg 148-152 (From Abraham to the church in Rome, idea and some wording take from here)

Church the task before us is great, Jesus tells us **“The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, so pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers”**

We are laborers - we have been pulled out of darkness into the light to TESTIFY to the light

The church is God’s plan A - he saved us, he equips us and he sends us what is required on our part is surrender and obedience.

Romans 10

14 How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful[i] are the feet of those who bring good news.

Who will go? Who will go?

What is our responsibility? What should we do? For us, here in Marietta, Ga at Image Church

What do we do? How do we participate in the global mission of God

For one you can give to missions... Right now, at this very moment we have two of our won members who are in the support raising process to go to the mission field

Caleb and Brittany Cobb are going. They will be uprooting their lives and they are going you can support them you can pray for them

What else can you do? Image Church has missions partners... we are planning a trip to **Honduras** in October... you can go with us

The honduras slide will be up at the end of service you can use the QR code to fillout the interest form - or come see me afterwards.

We will have trips every year to Honduras, and when the Cobbs get on the ground we will have trips to serve with them as well.

I don't think that it is far-fetched to say that in the **next three years every member of Image should go on at least 1 short term trip.**

We need to see what God is doing around the world, we need to experience it and maybe, just maybe God calls you, and you answer the call to leverage your life for the nations

By packing up and moving overseas...

But also know, **that the nations are coming to Atlanta**, the nations are all around us. We have people from all over the world right here in our backyard

There are opportunities to engage with different people groups here in Atlanta, in our city, in our community

You have the opportunity to participate in the great commission without ever getting on a plane

But here me, some of you sitting in this room need to go, may not know where but I believe the Lord is calling some of you

*****Conclusion*** ***VAMP*****

This morning my goal was to lay before you the heart of God for the nations, whether or not we actually begin to engage in the mission of God or not

Is not going to come from whether or not a made a compelling argument or was this an inspiring sermon or not -

Its not going to be a sermon, or some inspiring story... I could sit here and tell you of

- *Jim and Elizabeth Elliot*
- *Hudson Taylor*
- *William Carey (the father of modern missions)*
- *Mary Slessor*
- *George Leile*

- *Adoniram Judson*

List and list of missionaries who gave up everything, some even their lives to take the gospel to those who have never heard and sure it would be cool and inspiring

And maybe you even walk away going "man I could do that" but then it fades and you carry on with your life

But ultimately what is going to compel you to engage in the mission, to answer the call to go to the nations

Is to realize you have been blessed to be a blessing, to see all peoples praise him

the only thing that will ever compel you to get off the sideline and into the mission of God, the only thing to compel you to leave everything behind and move to an unreached people group

Is to be compelled by Christ, is to realize that God has in fact been gracious to you, that he has made his face shine upon you, that in his grace and mercy towards you

Saved you from your sin, called you out of your brokenness and shame, that God in his great love for you sent Jesus to save us from our sin

Compelled by the love of Jesus, and an unquenching desire to see all peoples praise him

That you believe Revelation 7 to be true

9 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! 11 All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, Amen! Blessing and glory

and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Compelled by God's grace and a vision of the nations standing before the throne worshiping him for all eternity

If you are here this morning and yet to believe, in God's heart for the nations would you see his desire for all peoples. That you are loved by God, that he sent Jesus that you might believe

And for those that are believers, you are follower of Jesus. You might think I could never do this... I can't go I'm barely holding on as it is. I get it, I have been there.

Remember your salvation, remember what he brought you from and where he has brought you to. Press into community, cling to the word. Take small steps of faithful obedience

That might be just showing up to church or community group consistently, maybe its joining a serve team here at church. Don't give up, look to Jesus and believe the gospel

Others of you need to remember,

that this life is not your own, you were created with a purpose, that purpose being to bring glory to God and ultimately what brings God glory is each of us living for the one who created us

the one who saved us, and is now sending us so that all the peoples might praise him, to make his name known among the nations

The great commission is not a suggestion for some but a mandate for all... each of us is called by God to engage in the mission of God around the world

The question for us is not if, but how will we be active participants in God's plan to reach the nations

Will you go? Will you send?

We have been blessed to be a blessing, God is for his glory and he is most glorified when we are satisfied in him, and we live our lives to see the gospel go forth to all nations

God has been gracious to you, he has made his face shine upon you, so that his ways might be known on earth, salvation among all nations

Let all the peoples praise him, let all the nations rejoice and shout for joy

Lets Pray....

