

Psalms 67

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 67 - and as we make our way to the 67th Psalm...

...I wanna begin by first pointing out that there is no mention of authorship - here in the beginning of this song.

And while there are many who attribute the lyrics of this Psalm to King David — we can't say for sure.

One reason for believing that King David is the author of this song - is due to the fact that...

...this is the fifth Psalm - that begins with the superscription which reads: To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments.

As a matter of fact - Psalm 4 - Psalm 6 - Psalm 54 - Psalm 55 - and Psalm 61 - all begin with this same statement...

...the only difference being that - they also identify David - as the author of the Psalm.

Now - this doesn't prove that King David wrote this Psalm - - and yet - it most certainly fits with his style of writing.

It's for this reason that Spurgeon assured us of David's authorship - in his commentary of this song - by writing...

No author's name is given, but he would be a bold man who should attempt to prove that David did not write it. We will be hard pushed before we will look for any other author upon whom to father these anonymous odes which lie side by side with those ascribed to David, and wear a family likeness to them.

The prince of preachers was convinced that King David wrote the lyrics of this song.

And I have no reason to disagree with his assessment.

Well - regardless of who wrote this Psalm - what we can say for certain is that...

...the author of this song wanted those who sang it - to see the clear connection....

...between the blessings of the Lord - and the praises that are due to His holy name.

And as we make our way through this chapter - we will take the time to consider...

...how those who receive the merciful blessings of God will be filled with the joy of Jesus.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics found here in the 67th Psalm.

Look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist writes...

Psa 67:1 To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - asking the Lord to fulfill the promise...

...that's presented in the blessing that the priests of Israel were directed to declare over the people of God.

We find the details of this blessing in Numbers chapter 6 - it's beginning at verse 23 - where the Lord declared...

Num 6:23 “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:
Num 6:24 “The LORD bless you and keep you;
Num 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”’
Num 6:27 “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Here in these verses - we find the Lord - directed the priests of Israel...

...to proclaim the blessings of Yahweh - upon the children of Israel.

This included the blessings of divine protection and preservation.

This also includes the blessing of God’s grace - through the light of the Lord’s loving kindness.

And this includes the blessing of relational peace - through the atonement of the sacrifice.

As we consider this priestly blessing that was proclaimed over the people of God...

...we shouldn’t be surprised to find the Psalmist - beginning this Psalm...

...by asking the Lord to fulfill this promise - by blessing them with the merciful love of our Messiah.

With this as our focus - let’s take another look - there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 67:1 God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah

Now - you might be interested to know that - the word - merciful - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in reference to the gracious favour - by which the Lord blesses those who trust in Him.

And what this means is that - the Psalmist wasn't asking the Lord to give him what he deserved.

No - instead - he was asking the Lord be merciful to them

...by pouring out the blessings that they didn't deserve.

I should also point out that - when the Psalmist asked the Lord to cause His face to shine upon them....

...he was inviting the Lord to illuminate their lives - with the glorious light of His love.

This reminds me of the child - who looks for approval in the face of their parents.

And when they see their parent - smiling upon them with loving approval...

...there is a blessing of joy - that fills the heart of the child.

In similar fashion - there's a blessing of joy - that fills the heart of the believer...

...who is resting in the realization that we have been accepted in the beloved.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 3 - where he declared...

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly
places in Christ,
Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ
to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made
us accepted in the Beloved.

It's God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing - according
to His predetermined plan.

This includes the divine adoption - by which born-again
believers become the children of God.

Not only that - but - this also includes the gracious favor
by which we become accepted - in Christ Jesus.

And knowing that we've become the adopted -
accepted children of God...

...the hearts of every Christian are filled with the
joy of Jesus...

...as we rest in the lovingkindness of our
Heavenly Father.

Not only that - but - those who receive the blessings of God's gracious favor - will
also sing the praises of our Savior.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 67th Psalm - look with me -
beginning there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 67:2 That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

Psa 67:3 Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

Psa 67:4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth. Selah

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - connections the dots
between the salvation of the Lord...

...and the joyful gladness that leads us to proclaim the praises of our
Savior.

And in order to make this connection - let's take a closer look at
the way the Psalmist explained it.

Notice with me again - there in verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 67:2 That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

Here in this verse - we find the Psalmist - connecting the dots -
between the way of the Lord...

...and the salvation that would become a blessing - in all the
nations of the world.

And in order for us to understand this connection - I
should take a moment to remind you that...

...Jesus IS the Way - - and THE ONLY Way for
sinners to be saved.

I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained this - in John chapter 14 - it's
beginning at verse 1 - where He declared...

Jhn 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God,
believe also in Me.

Jhn 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not
so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jhn 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again
and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jhn 14:4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Jhn 14:5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

Jhn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

According to the Lord Jesus - He is THE Way - and the ONLY Way - to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

And so - when the Psalmist prayed that the WAY of the Lord would be known on the Earth...

...He was referring to the Way that our Messiah would bring salvation - to all the nations.

And it's this salvation that causes those who are saved - to sing the praises of our God.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 67th Psalm - look with me again - beginning there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 67:2 That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

Psa 67:3 Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

More simply put - the Way of the Lord - results in the salvation of our Savior Jesus.

And it's the Salvation of our Savior - Jesus - that produces the praises of God...

...being proclaimed by the people of every nation.

We should also notice how the Psalmist also referred to the praises which will be proclaimed - during the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

Look with me again - there at verse 4 - where he declared...

Psa 67:4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
For You shall judge the people righteously,

And govern the nations on earth. Selah

Here in this verse - we find the Psalmist - shifting his attention from the praises being proclaimed during the first advent...

...to the praises which will be proclaimed - during the days after the second advent...

...when the King of kings will judge the people righteously
- as He governs the nations on earth.

With this as our focus - let's consider the prophetic promise that the Lord presented to King David - just before he died.

It's in 2nd Samuel chapter 7 - beginning at verse 12 - where the prophet Nathan declared...

2Sa 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

2Sa 7:15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

2Sa 7:16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

Here in these verses - we find the prophet Nathan - presenting King David with the prophetic promise of the Lord.

And according to this promise - there was coming a day - when the Lord would establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

And while this was partially fulfilled by all of the kings who descended from the bloodline of king David...

...the final fulfillment of this prophetic promise won't be realized...

...until the day when the Lord Jesus returns - and establishes His throne...

...there in the city of David.

In order to prove my point - let's consider how the angel Gabriel explained this to Mary.

It's in Luke chapter 1 - beginning at verse 30 - where the angel Gabriel said to her...

Luk 1:30 "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

Luk 1:32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Luk 1:33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Christian - listen - there's coming a day - when the Lord Jesus will return...

...and it's at that point in time when He will establish the throne of His father David - forevermore.

And while there are Christians who spiritualize - and allegorize this prophetic promise...

...the Psalmist assured us that this prophecy will be fulfilled...

...as the nations sing for joy - because - the Savior will judge the people righteously...

...as He governs the nations on earth.

Let's consider how the Prophet Zechariah put it - in the 14th chapter of his book - beginning at verse 16 - he declared...

Zec 14:16 ...it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

According to this prophecy - it's during the Millennial kingdom of the promised Messiah...

...when the nations of the world will come before the King of kings...

...in order to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Some Bible teachers try to spiritualize this prophecy - while others attempt to allegorize it's meaning.

I encourage you to apply the golden rule of interpretation - which David Cooper stated in this way...

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

In other words - when the plain sense makes sense - seek no other sense - lest you end up with nonsense.

If we apply this hermeneutical principle to these passages - then - we come to the conclusion that...

...the King of kings is a descendant of David - Who will eventually rule and reign over the nations of the world.

And it's during those days - which we call the millennial kingdom of Christ...

...when the nations of the earth will sing the praises of the lord Jesus - during the feast of Tabernacles.

This seems to be the period of time that the Psalmist was singing about - there in verse 4 - where he declared...

Psa 67:4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth. Selah

Now - as far as I know - the only period of time when the Lord will govern the nations - here on the earth...

...is during the Millennial Kingdom that will begin - after the time of Tribulation.

And if I'm right - then this is the period of time that the Psalmist was singing about.

We also find the Psalmist - encouraging every person to praise the Lord - because of the blessings that He pours out on every person.

Let's consider how he put it - here in the final section of this Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 67:5 Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
Psa 67:6 Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.
Psa 67:7 God shall bless us,
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Here in these verses - we find the author of this Psalm - encouraging every person to sing the praises of our God...

...and the reason why is because - He is the One Who sends the rain that brings for the produce...

...according to the agricultural system that He created on the third day of Creation.

Now - as we consider the way that God created the agricultural system...

...so that the herbs - and grains - and fruit trees all produced food - - as well as the seed - which would then produce more food...

...we should take a moment to praise the One - Who made sure that's the earth would naturally produce a harvest.

And as we consider the agricultural system that the Lord created on the third day - I should take a moment to remind you that...

...God didn't create the sun and the moon - until the fourth day of creation.

That's right - God created the herbs - and the grains - and the fruit trees - which all need sunlight to survive - on day three...

...and then He created the Sun and the Moon - on day four.

Now - there is no problem with this order - providing the days of creation are literal - 24 hour days.

As for those who insist that the days of creation were long ages - or epochs of time...

...the question they must answer is - how did the herbs and the grains - and the fruit trees - survive without the Sun...

...for the long age - or epoch of time that they believe transpired - from the third - to the fourth day of creation.

With this question in mind - I'll remind you about the golden rule of interpretation - which David Cooper stated in this way...

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

The plain sense of the creation account will lead us to believe that God created the agricultural system on day three...

...and then - 24 hours later - He created the Sun - the moon and the stars.

And in order to further prove my point - I'll remind you of the way He used the days of creation....

...as the model for our 7 day work week.

Here's how the Lord explained it to Moses - in Exodus chapter 31 - it's beginning at verse 15 - where He declared...

Exo 31:15 'Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exo 31:16 'Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

Exo 31:17 'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' ”

According to the Lord - our six day work week is based on the six days of creation - followed by the 7th day of rest.

And with that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing the Lord had a perfect plan...

...when He created the agricultural system on day three...

...and then placed the Sun - the Moon and the Stars in the sky on day four.

Sadly - there are many in the church today - who are trying to explain away the miracle of the Creation...

...as they insist that - we must interpret Genesis chapter 1 - according to the consensus science of the 21st century.

And knowing that more and more Christians are falling for this naturalistic explanation of the creation account...

...I encourage you to remember the warning that Paul presented - in the book of Romans.

It's in Romans chapter 1 - beginning at verse 18 - where Paul declared...

Rom 1:18 ...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

Christian - listen - the miracle of the Creation is one way that the Lord has revealed His invisible attributes.

And we should encourage people to rejoice in the almighty power of our God...

...Who simply spoke forth the Universe - during the 6 days of creation.

And we should Sing the praises of the One Who created the hydrologic cycle...

...and the agricultural system - which provides us with the food we need.

Not only that - but - the Psalmist also encouraged us to sing the praises of the Lord - with a heart that's filled with holy fear.

Let's consider again how he put it - here in the final section of this Psalm - look with me again - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 67:5 Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
Psa 67:6 Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.
Psa 67:7 God shall bless us,
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Without debate - our God has blessed us - and beyond measure.

This not only includes an Earth the produces food for us...

...but - this also includes the love we experience within
our families - and our communities.

The Lord has created us with the ability to create
buildings and cars...

...as well as smart phones and computers.

Not only that - but - the Lord has created us to be
creative...

...and so - we have artists and actors - chefs -
and singers.

There is an endless list of ways that we've been
blessed by our God.

And it's for this reason that the Psalmist
encouraged us to fear the Lord.

Christian - listen - if we aren't careful - we'll soon find ourselves singing
the praises of the creation - rather than the Creator.

For example - how many of us love to sing the praises of our favorite artist - or athlete?...

...all the while failing to remember that - the Lord is the One
Who deserves the glory.

With this question in mind - I want to remind you of the statement James presented in chapter 1 - it's verses 16 and 17 where he declared...

Jas 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

The blessings that we experience - each and every day - are perfect gifts from God.

And it's for this reason that we should sing the praises of God - with reverential fear in our hearts...

...so that we might always remember that - every blessing we enjoy - is a gift that was given by God.

With that - I want to conclude this study - with the priestly proclamation that the Psalmist quoted from - back in the beginning of this song.

The full quote is found in Numbers chapter 6 - where the priests of Israel were directed to declare...

Num 6:24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;

Num 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;

Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace." '