

## **Psalm 117: The Shortest Psalm with a Global Message**

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!  
Laud Him, all you peoples!  
For His merciful kindness is great toward us,  
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord! — Psalm 117:1–2 (NKJV)*

This is the shortest psalm in the Bible—just two verses—but its message reaches farther than any border, tribe, or tongue. It’s a call for all nations to lift their voices in praise to the one true God.

### **Background: The Hallel Psalms**

Psalm 117 is part of the *Hallel* (Hebrew for "praise") psalms—Psalms 113–118—which were traditionally sung during the Jewish festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. These songs reminded Israel of God’s mighty acts and enduring faithfulness.

Most likely, Jesus Himself sang this psalm with His disciples on the night of His betrayal (cf. *Matthew* 26:30). Imagine the Son of God, knowing the cross was just hours away, singing a song that called the nations to praise—a song that anticipated the very outcome of His sacrifice: salvation for all people.

### **Verse 1: A Global Invitation to Worship**

*“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!”*

This verse is remarkable, especially coming from a time when Israel was God’s covenant nation and the Gentile world was largely seen as outside that relationship. But even here—long before the Great Commission—God reveals His heart for *every* nation, *every* culture, *every* person.

### **Personal Application:**

This is a reminder that God’s love and plan of redemption were never just for a chosen few. They extend to *you, your neighbor, and people across the globe*. Worship is not limited to any one language or location. Whether you’re in a rural village or a city skyscraper, if you know the Lord, this command is for you: *Praise Him*. And if you don’t know Him yet, He invites you in.

### **Verse 2: The Reason for Our Praise**

*“For His merciful kindness is great toward us...”*

The Hebrew word for “merciful kindness” (חֶסֶד, *chesed*) speaks of God’s loyal love—His steadfast, covenantal mercy. It’s not the kind of kindness that changes with mood or performance. It’s the kind of love that holds on when we fail and draws near when we fall short.

**Personal Application:**

We all need this kind of love. Not conditional affection, but a mercy that doesn't give us what we deserve, and kindness that gives us more than we could ever earn. How many times has God shown you mercy you didn't ask for? Kindness you didn't see coming? That's a reason to praise.

"...And the truth of the Lord endures forever."

God's truth doesn't fade. His promises don't expire. In a world where opinions shift and facts are often twisted, God's Word remains steady, trustworthy, and eternal.

**Personal Application:**

You can build your life on something that won't move. God's truth endures when people let you down, when emotions change, and when everything else feels uncertain. His truth doesn't just *last*—it *anchors* you. Let His unchanging truth guide your decisions, your worldview, and your hope.

**Final Word: "Praise the Lord!"**

This short psalm ends as it began—with a simple but powerful command: *Praise the Lord!* In Hebrew, that's *Hallelu Yah*—a phrase Jesus likely sang before heading to the Garden of Gethsemane.

And He sang it knowing that His sacrifice would open the way for this very praise to rise from the lips of people from every nation.

**In Summary**

- Psalm 117 may be brief, but it speaks a universal truth: God's mercy is deep, His truth is eternal, and His love is not limited by borders or backgrounds.
- It calls you to respond with thankful, wholehearted praise—not because you have to, but because He has been kind to you.
- Whether you're young or old, strong or weak, near or far—this praise is your calling.

Let your voice join the chorus that spans every nation:  
Praise the Lord!