

Psalm 67:1–7 — A Prayer for Blessing and Global Praise

Psalm 67 is a short but profound prayer, looking forward to the day when the whole earth will worship the Lord. It is both personal and global, teaching us how personal blessing from God connects to the wider mission of making His name known among the nations.

"God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah." (Psalm 67:1, NKJV)

David's prayer is simple and direct: *Be merciful to us. Bless us. Cause Your face to shine upon us.* Some might view prayers for personal blessing as selfish, but Scripture never rebukes us for asking God for mercy and favor when our motives are right. Jesus Himself taught us to pray for daily bread (Matthew 6:11).

However, notice the purpose behind the request:

"That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations." (Psalm 67:2, NKJV)

David's longing for personal blessing is not self-centered; it is missional. He desires God's mercy and blessing so that God's ways and saving power might be known throughout the earth. This is the heartbeat of true worship: to reflect God's goodness so that others are drawn to Him.

A Vision of Universal Praise

"Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You." (Psalm 67:3, NKJV)

David repeats this call twice (verses 3 and 5), emphasizing that the ultimate purpose of God's blessing is global worship. Every nation and people group are envisioned here—not just Israel, but *all peoples*.

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

David looks ahead to a time when Christ Himself will rule the nations with righteousness. This is a direct foreshadowing of the Kingdom Age, when Jesus will sit on David's throne and judge with perfect justice:

"For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us." (Isaiah 33:22, NKJV)

Though there are many questions we cannot fully answer—such as what happens to those who never heard the gospel—Scripture assures us that Christ will judge righteously. His judgment will be perfectly just. We may not know all the specifics, but we know we can trust the Judge:

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25, NKJV)

Rather than dwell in uncertainty, we are called to walk in the light we've been given and entrust the unknown to the character of a righteous God.

The Earth's Response to Praise

"Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us." (Psalm 67:5–6, NKJV)

Interestingly, David links human praise with the blessing of creation itself. As worship rises, the earth responds. This echoes Paul's statement that all creation longs for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:19–22).

Although experiments on plant reactions to sound and speech are intriguing, David is making a broader theological point: when humanity gives God His rightful praise, even the created order flourishes under His blessing. Worship and obedience realign creation to its intended harmony.

If blessing follows praise, the absence of blessing could well be tied to the absence of worship. As individuals and nations, we would do well to heed the principle: when God is honored, His favor rests.

The Certain Blessing to Come

"God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." (Psalm 67:7, NKJV)

The psalm ends with confidence. God's blessing on His people will eventually lead all the earth to reverence Him. His face shining upon His people will not end in selfish indulgence but in global witness.

Personal Application

Psalm 67 invites us to examine our motives. Are we asking for God's blessings only for personal comfort, or do we desire His blessings so His name can be known through us?

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16, NKJV)

This psalm teaches us that God's goodness toward us is not to end with us but to flow through us to the nations. As we pray for His mercy, favor, and presence, we must remember: we are blessed to be a blessing.

The heart of the matter is not whether we should pray for blessings—but why we pray for them.