

Psalm 67 – Bible Study Notes Worldwide Praise and Doxology

Primary Focus: Every person shall praise God.

Background Info: Author is unknown. It is speculated this psalm revolves around the blessing God promised to Abraham: he will be blessed and he will be a blessing. The theme needing God, not only for his blessings, but needing God himself, is also reflected in this psalm.

Basic structure:

- I. God interacts with his people (vv. 1-2)
- II. The people shall praise God (vv. 3-7)
 - A. Praise God who rules the whole earth (vv. 3-4)
 - B. Praise God who blesses the whole earth (vv. 5-7)

Verses 1-2 – God interacts with his people

Verse 1 – This comes from the Aaronic blessing found in Numbers 6:24-25.

God interacts with his people and reveals himself to them.

This sets the tone of the whole song: All blessings come from God.

Verse 2 – This is the result of God's revelation.

God reveals himself so that we may know him, not just know of him.

This has in mind God's revelation through scripture and prophets.

Scripture is the God's final revelation to his creation (revelation is closed).

God's "salvation" in 2b is Christ, revealed in the New Testament.

Life Questions

Describe your knowledge of God; tell us about God as you know him. Describe the difference between revelation and discovery?

Verses 3-4 – The people praise God who rules the whole earth

Verse 3 – The people shall praise God.

Verses 3 and 5 repeat the same call to praise.

"Peoples... all peoples" denotes that all people of all time shall praise God.

Peoples – not just man in general, but people in particular.

All peoples – emphasizes that all shall praise God, no exceptions.

Some speculate "peoples" is Israel, "all peoples" is the world (Acts 1:8).

Verse 4 – God's reign is joyous and fair.

"Glad" and "joy" express that God is not an oppressive ruler.

The second two lines elaborate on why his reign is joyous.

God is a judge – he is fair, equitable, and final source of morals and virtue.

God is a guide/governor – he is a shepherd who protects, loves, and teaches.

Life Questions

What does it mean for God to rule over everything?
How does God judge and guide you?

Verses 5-7 – The people praise God who blesses the whole earth

Verse 5 – The same as verse 3 (see above).

Verses 6-7 – Just as God blessed in the past, he shall bless in the future.

Some translations render the first line in the future tense “shall yield” (KJV, NKJV, NIV).

Some translations render it in the past “yielded” or “has yielded” (ESV, NASB, NRSB, RSV).

Hebrew is correctly translated as a past event, not future.

God has blessed his people in the past through nature.

God will bless his people in the future.

The specific blessing is not clear.

This could be through nature, individual blessings, or the Messiah.

Life Questions

How has God blessed us through nature? Describe a blessing in your life that you will tell others about this week.