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A People-Blessing, God-Glorifying Kingdom



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #135 ~

I love **Psalm 67**, another promising passage that speaks about the future. As Christians, we can apply parts of this Psalm to our lives, but the main focus is on the Jewish people, and God affecting the world through them, especially during the millennial kingdom. But you ask, was this not applicable to the Jews during the Old Testament times? Of course, God's desire for the Jews was to be a witness to the Gentiles so they too would worship Him, but that happened in a very limited way (2 Chronicles 9:8). This Psalm is primarily speaking of the coming kingdom age when Jesus Christ is King, and ruling and reigning over the world.

Psalm 47, which we looked at last week, was a **command** to the peoples of the world to praise God, but **Psalm 67** is a **prayer** for the

peoples of the world to praise God. Verse 1 starts out as a prayer for God's mercy and grace, for His face to shine upon *"us"*, the Jewish people. ***"God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us."*** God wanted to bless the Jews, to give them what they didn't deserve. But why? Verse two gives an awesome, far-reaching answer. ***"That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations."*** It's so God's way and purpose would be made known around the world, with the result that salvation, mercy and deliverance from sin, would be experienced by the Gentiles, by unbelievers in all the nations.

Psalm 96:3-4 amplifies on what will be taking place during this kingdom age: *"Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised."* With Christ ruling the world, and a large number of Jews and glorified believers proclaiming His gospel message, I am convinced we will have the greatest evangelistic effort ever, with great multitudes turning to Christ and being saved.

What else is being prayed? Verse 3 says, ***"Let all the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You."*** This too will be answered, for the result of people repenting of their sins and receiving God's mercy is that they will be praising Him. Isn't that God's primary purpose in life, for people to praise Him? Yes, yes, people are to love, worship and praise God with all their heart. *"Sing praises to our King, sing praises"* (Psalm 47:6). This will definitely take place during the millennial kingdom, for it will be a good and glorious age when *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord"* (Habakkuk 2:14), and people all over the world will be worshiping the Lord like never before.

The glory God receives from His people goes hand in hand with the blessing they receive, which is what verse 4 tells us: ***"Let the nations be glad and sing for joy."*** This again is a prayer, a prayer that God

will answer. All over the earth, people will be glad-hearted and singing for joy, joy springing from the fact that they know God's mercy and soul-satisfying love. Not only that, but they are seeing and experiencing God's righteous rule on earth, ***"For You will judge the world with uprightness."*** Christ will be completely in charge, and through His servants, He will be leading and judging the nations. Lawlessness will not be the way of the world anymore, for Christ will be quickly executing true justice. Just think what it will be like to be serving our Savior and King during this time. *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3

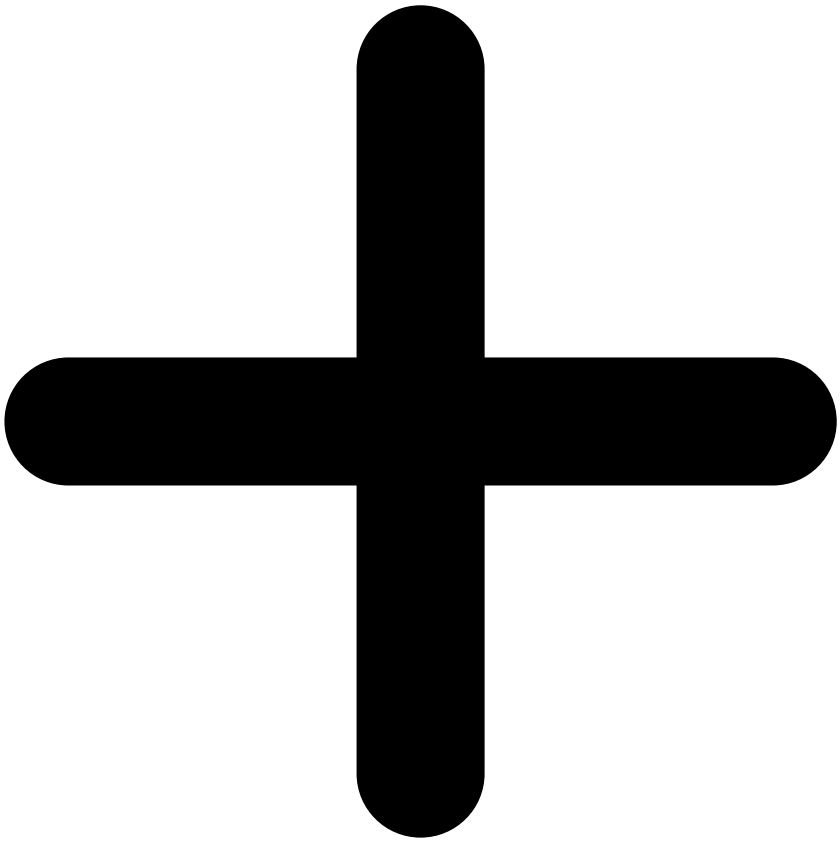
The prayer continues with verse 5, which repeats verse 3, and for good reason, to emphasize God's main purpose, that He be whole-heartedly praised by all the people. ***"Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You."*** With this verse, the prayer is completed, and during this millennial kingdom it will finally, and fully, be answered, and we will witness Christ's wonderful and God-glorifying work.

Psalm 67:6 gives another result of Christ's amazing and perfect work, that ***"the earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us."*** Now we're talking about agriculture, for the blessings during this kingdom age are not just spiritual but also physical. Psalm 65:9-13 tells us, *"You visit the earth and cause it to overflow… You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth… The meadows are clothed with flocks."* The creation, being freed from its slavery to corruption (Romans 8:19-22), will be both picturesque and productive, a beautiful display of God's work, a glory to God and a blessing to us. *"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the fields exult, and all that is in it."* Psalm 96:10-12

The last verse assures us that this prayer will be answered, for ***"God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him."*** God will bless both Jewish people and glorified saints, for their good, and so the world will fear Him and give Him glory. Can you imagine being with Jesus Christ and fellow believers for one thousand years? Wow! What a

great, God-glorifying time this will be! *“Every knee will bow… and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”* Philippians 2:10-11

P.S. I cannot say it enough, that as Christians, we need to have perspective if we are to rightly live for our Lord and Savior. Here are two previous posts that will help you see the big picture of your life, and of God’s working: “Jesus Christ, the Savior, Judge, Redeemer and King,” and “This Age is Coming to an End, and Then a New Age Will Begin.”



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