

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Psalm 67:1-7

September 3, 2017

Psalm 67 is commonly referred to as the “missionary Psalm”. It is a beautiful exclamation by the Psalmist in which the Lord’s blessings are sought so that the nations might know His name and therefore He will be glorified. The Psalmist moves from asking for corporate blessing, to national blessing, to praying that the “ends of the earth” would praise Him. Like our own salvation, the passage moves from being man-centered to being God-centered.

1. In the first verse, the Psalmist alludes directly to Numbers 6:24-25 which is known as the ‘Aaronic Benediction’. The Psalmist goes beyond the Aaronic blessing in the second verse and provides some rationale for the blessing.

- Read Number 6:24-25 and note the differences between it and the first two verses of Psalms 67:1-2. In what way is the Psalmist building upon the Aaronic Blessing?
- What connection is there between the idea of God blessing us and His name being made “known on earth”?
- Read Psalms 104:15 and Matthew 17:2. In what way, if any, do you see connections with these verses and the phrase “make His face shine upon us”?

2. Vv 3-5 provides a missional sandwich, if you will. The Psalmist prays that “all the peoples” will praise God twice. In between these two prayers, he speaks of God’s sovereignty and justice.

- Why should people “be glad and sing for joy” according to verse 4?
- In what way does the certainty of God’s judgement (justice) cause us to “sing for joy”? What about God’s guidance (sovereignty) of the nations?

3. Vv 6-7 speaks of “increase”. Agricultural (and therefore financial) increase is a common theme in the Bible. Surely this is alluded to here. However, it is clear that the Psalmist, in light of the context, is praising God for a realized increase of His kingdom in terms of those who follow Him.

- We’ve seen that this passage is an invitation to do missions. Do you think the incentive being provided is negative (keep people out of hell) or positive (invite people to be with God)?
- Based on your answer to the previous question, how should this help shape the way in which we not only do missions, but evangelize?
- Do you feel as passionate as the Psalmist does regarding the desire for God to be praised by the peoples of the earth? Why or why not?

4. As is the case with many of the Psalms, the end is tied to the beginning.

- What is similar about the end (v. 7) of the Psalm and the beginning (v. 1)?
- In what ways should we have the assurance that God *will* “bless us”? What does this assurance cause us to *do*?