

RADICAL THE BOOK

BY DAVID PLATT

CHAP. 4 THE GREAT WHY OF GOD

Ps. 67:1-7

Supporting Passages Gen. 1:26-28; Lk. 1:26-55; Acts 2:42-47, 21:1-12; **Rev. 7:9-10**

If I were to ask you what the overwhelming global purpose of God is in Scripture, what would you say? Would you agree that God blesses His people so that people from every nation, tribe and people sing praises and bow down to the One who blessed them with salvation? David Platt calls it the Great Why of God. **How would you summarize the message of Christianity?** God loves us, God sent Jesus to die for us. This places the emphasis on us not on God. **How would** the summary change if the emphasis were placed on God?

Psalm 67 is one of many reminders in the OT that even though God called the Jews to be His chosen people He has always intended to extend salvation to all the world. See **Gen 12:2-3**. (note the 7-fold blessing of God. The 7th one “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” repeated in Acts 3:25) In the NT Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations **Mt. 28:19-20**. See **Gal 3:6-9** (Vs. note scripture foresaw calls attention to its’ divine nature. Vs. 9 see Rom 4 & Heb 11:8-19) which says that every Jew or Gentile who accepts God’s gift of salvation is a spiritual descendant of Abraham.

In Ps 67 the Israelites ask God to bless them so that all nations might recognize that salvation comes only from Him. One day every knee will bow and at the name of Jesus and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God. **Phil. 2:10-11**.

I. **God Graciously Blesses His People so He May be Known Among the Nations**

Ps. 67:1-2

The psalmist was echoing Aaron’s benediction from **Num. 6:24-26**. The word Selah appears at the end of the first verse and the 4th verse. **Does anyone know what Selah means?** No one else does either the best guess is that it was a sign for a pause in the music. See **Lev 20:26**, Israel did recognize that God called them to be a holy nation and a light to the Gentiles **Isa 49:6**. If God’s favor shined upon Israel they would know that he was pleased if it did not shine then He was displeased.

On the opening pages of chapter 4 **what were the responses** from the deacon and pastor after hearing David tell about the work around the world? **READ Pg. 64 begin “ How many of us...gospel”** he has created each of us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, and I propose anything less than radical devotion to this purpose in **unbiblical** Christianity.

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the people of God seeking from Him in vs. 1? Grace & blessing
What does God’s blessings look like?

2. What was the purpose the people sought His blessing? So that salvation might be known among the nations. Did people seek His blessing for their own sake?
3. How do people go about making God known among nations?
4. Why did God form us in the 1st place? To enjoy God's grace & extend His glory Pg. 65. Has that purpose changed today?

II. When God's People Make Him Known, the Nations Respond to the Message of Salvation by Worshipping & Praising Him Ps. 67:3-5

Israel praised God in anticipation of the day when all nations would be included in His family and recognize the greatness of God Ps 145:1. God will judge all nations Ps 9:8 but also notice that God guides individuals as well as nations Ps 23:3.

David says the message of Biblical Christianity is NOT that God loves me this I know period but that "God loves me so that I might make Him- His ways, His salvation, His glory and His greatness known among all nations." We are not the end of the Gospel See Ex.14:4; Dan 3:28-29; Ezek. 36:22-23; Rev. 7-9-10. READ Pg. 69 "God and singing praises...It is the great why of God" pg 70-71.

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the people seeking in these vs.? for the nations to praise & worship God.

III. The True Blessings of God Can Only Be Experienced When His Glory is Known Among the Entire World Ps. 67:6-7

God ultimately determines the success of the harvest Ps. 65:9-13. Then God promised physical blessings if Israel was obedient Lev. 26:3-5; failure in obedience led to crop failure Lev 26:20. The harvest played a vital role in the life of Israel in fact three feasts celebrated the harvest: Firstfruits Lev. 23:9-14, Weeks 23:15-22 and tabernacles 23:33-43. (look at feasts chart)

Baal was mainly a god of the sun, rain, thunder, fertility and agriculture and at some point, he overtakes the god of the water, Yam. Baal is the son of the god Dagan or Dagon

Baal was considered the god of cultivation.

We have unnecessarily drawn a line of distinction between the *obligations* of Christianity to a few while keeping the privileges of Christianity for us all. Pg 73.

QUESTIONS:

1. What results from the people of God, using the blessing of God to make Him known and worshipped among the nations? God blesses His people & is revered throughout the world.
2. When God blesses His people is it just through bumper crops? Why did (does) God bless His people? To draw others to Himself. Lk 10:2, Mt 5:14-16.