

Psalm 67 - The Purpose of God's Blessing

Psa 67:1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us--

- **GRACIOUS** [MERCIFUL] - to kneel - favor, kindness, compassion, mercy from a superior to an inferior
- **BLESS** us -- tangible expressions of His kindness
- **FACE TO SHINE** on us -- signifies His approval, favor, and delight - his presence is toward us

Similar to the blessing of the high priest (Hebraic understanding of the verse)

Num 6:24-26 ESV The LORD **ble**ss you and **keep** you; 25 the LORD **make his face to shine** upon you and be **gracious** to you; 26 the LORD **lift up his countenance** upon you and give you **peace**.

*“Yahweh will **kneel** before you presenting gifts, and he will **guard** you with a **hedge of protection**, Yahweh will illuminate the **wholeness of his being** toward you, bringing order, and he will **provide** you with love, sustenance, and friendship, Yahweh will lift up the **wholeness of his being** and look upon you, and he will set in place all you need to be **whole and complete**.”*

Blessing is NOT an end in itself

Ps 67:2 so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations

- **Way** - a road (as trodden); figuratively a course of life or mode of action (ON EARTH)
- **Saving Power** - salvation, deliverance, help -- Hebrew Yeshu'a -- (**connection to Jesus name**)

As God's ways and salvation are known, it leads to the praise to God - and a recurring cycle

- 3 May the **peoples praise** you, God; may all the **peoples praise** you. 4 May the **nations be glad** and **sing for joy**, for you **rule the peoples** with equity and **guide the nations** of the earth.
- 5 May the **peoples praise** you, God; **may all the peoples praise you**. 6 The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. 7 **May God bless us** still, so that **all the ends of the earth will fear him**.

The purpose of God's blessing was expressed when He first called Abraham

- Genesis 12:1-3...I will **ble**ss you and make your name great, so that **you will be a blessing**. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed**.

Israel called to be a kingdom of priests, they failed at this,

- Ex 19:6 - And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- Hosea 4:6(a) - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me...

Now it is bestowed upon us to be the royal priesthood

- 1Pe 2:9-12 ESV But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies** of him who **called you out of darkness** into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were **not a people**, but now you are **God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but **now you have received mercy**.
 - Proclaim the virtues and excellence of God
 - Walk in the Light He called you out of darkness into light
Let the world know You were NOT a people now you are God's
 - Let them know You had not received mercy, now you have

Rom 15:15-16because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus **to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God**, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.