

Evening Sermon Outline – August 9, 2020

“The Spread of Blessings” Psalm 67

As early as Genesis 12, and God’s promise to Abram, we find discussion of God’s blessings spreading through all the earth -

³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

Paul speaks of the Gospel going to the Gentiles in terms of mystery –

³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. Ephesians 3:3–7 (NKJV)

Yet, while it was a mystery to the Jews, the Gospel going to the Gentiles was communicated, at least a little, in the Old Testament -

42 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV)

⁶ “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, Isaiah 42:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’” Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)

Here too, in Psalm 67, while we see the Gospel starting in Jerusalem, we see it also spreading throughout our world! Just as our Lord Jesus said the moment before He ascended to Heaven. This was, and is, the Great Commission -

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

I. The start of blessings flowing - To the Chief Musician. On Stringed Instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

¹ God be merciful to us and bless us, *and* cause His face to shine upon us, Selah Psalm 67:1 (NKJV)

1. Note this Psalm / Song is not attributed to David, or to anyone. It could have been written by Solomon –

2. Mercy is the foundation of blessing – ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

3. Both Jews and gentiles need the mercy of God –

⁹ What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. Romans 3:9 (NKJV)

II. Blessings are meant to flow, spread –

² That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2 (NKJV)

1. God’s “Way” is Jesus Christ –

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

2. Jesus is God’s “Salvation” as well –

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” Luke 2:25–32 (NKJV)

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

3. *It is knowledge of God that saves us –*
²That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2 (NKJV)

³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

Verse 3.—“Let the people praise thee.” Mark the sweet order of the blessed Spirit: first, mercy; then, knowledge; last of all, praising of God. We cannot see His countenance except He be merciful to us; and we cannot praise Him except His way be known upon earth. His mercy breeds knowledge; His knowledge, praise.—*John Boys*.

III. *Blessings flowing to the gentiles leads to praise and song from them –*

³Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴ Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah Psalm 67:3–4 (NKJV)

1. “Peoples” :3 and “nations” :4 are Gentiles
2. They praise and sing –

⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” ¹⁴Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Revelation 5:9–14 (NKJV)

3. Verse :3 is repeated in verse :5, showing this prayer for peoples’ praising God, for the Gospel’s spread, is the great theme of this Psalm, repetition means this is important -

⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Psalm 67:5 (NKJV)

IV. *Spiritual blessings lead to material blessings, and back to spiritual blessings, and to ... –*

⁶Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. Psalm 67:6 (NKJV)

Blessings, lead to blessings, which result in more Blessings!

“While man is blessing God *for* his mercies, He is blessing man *with* His mercies.” –
William Secker

V. *God’s blessings on His people result in awe and reverence (fear)*

–
⁷God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him. Psalm 67:7 (NKJV)

The ends of the earth shall fear Him, that is, worship Him, which is to be done with a godly fear. The blessings God bestows upon us call upon us not only to love Him, but to fear Him, to keep up high thoughts of Him and to be afraid of offending Him. When the gospel begins to spread it shall get ground more and more, till it reach to the ends of the earth. The leaven hidden in the meal shall diffuse itself, till the whole be leavened. And the many blessings which those will own themselves to have received that are brought into the church invite others to join themselves to them. It is good to cast in our lot with those that are the blessed of the Lord. Matthew Henry

1. Note the Psalmist prayed and sang these things when worship of the LORD was still largely limited to Israel. The United States of America did not even exist at this time! Yet, he correctly prophesies that the ends of the earth will fear Him!

2. Israel was small and had been smaller, but God blessed and increased them –

⁵¹“Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock *from which* you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah *who bore* you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.” Isaiah 51:1–2 (NKJV)

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