

Have you ever stopped to consider this question—why would a holy, righteous God choose to bless any human? Why would God shower any human being with His blessings? It certainly cannot be because we deserve it, because all of us have sinned and have fallen far short of the glory of God.

To think about this from another perspective, why would God choose to give so many blessings to Israel? Israel has rejected God's ways ever since her inception. She has been a rebellious nation, an idolatrous nation and an immoral nation. Israel was responsible for killing Jesus Christ. What possible reason could God have for still wanting to bless Israel?

The answer to these questions is found, in part, in this very Psalm. Now we may notice from the superscription that this Psalm was written for the choir director—which means it was to be publicly communicated. We also may observe that this is a song and it was to be accompanied by stringed instruments. The stringed instruments were known to play soothing music, so we may expect that this will be a soothing Psalm. So this Psalm was to be publicly taught, publicly played and publicly sung.

What we learn in this Psalm is a great deal about the grace of God. We learn why God graciously blesses people. The point of the Psalm is this:

THE REASON WHY GOD GRACIOUSLY BLESSES HIS PEOPLE IS SO THAT OTHERS WILL FEAR GOD AND BE DRAWN TO HIS WORD AND WAYS.

Now when God blesses His people, there is no question that His people greatly benefit because they are the recipients of His blessings. They receive wonderful things to enjoy. But God has another reason for blessing His people; that is to bring others to the point where they will fear Him and be drawn to Him. When other people see God's hand of blessing, they will want to be part of it and, as a result, some will desire to get into a right relationship with God.

The theme of this Psalm comes from **verse 1**. Notice how **verse 1** begins—"God be gracious to us and bless us." Now it is very possible that this is a Psalm of David. But regardless, this is a Psalm in which someone asks God to bless Israel. **Carefully notice the basis for the blessing request—God's Grace!**

The grace of God becomes the foundation for every blessing of God. God does not owe any human His blessings. In fact, when Adam and Eve sinned, what He actually owed them was death. But in pure grace, He let them live and then He blessed them in many ways. Grace is the foundation for any blessing we have.

Grace saves us; grace forgives sin and grace gives us blessing. Until one has experienced God's grace, he cannot experience God's blessing.

There is no question that God promises to reward faithfulness, but even this is purely God's grace. The very fact that He rewards faithfulness means the avenue most take is the avenue of unfaithfulness.

The path of unfaithfulness is one we have all been on many, many times. When God promises to reward faithfulness, He obviously assumes that this will motivate some of His people to get off the path of unfaithfulness. So it is pure grace that offers any blessings.

The idea in **verse 1** of God shining His face upon us was the idea of God looking favorably on Israel and shining forth His blessings—prosperity, posterity, protection and provisions. What this Psalm does is ask God to pour out His blessings on Israel by His grace. Any blessings we receive are blessings we do not merit or deserve.

Now the remainder of the Psalm gives reasons why David asks God for His blessings:

REASON #1 – When God blesses His people, it makes a statement about God's ways. **67:2a**

When nations see God blessing Israel, they realize that Israel, as a nation, is walking in the right ways of God and therefore that has led to His blessings. God's way is made known by those who have experienced His grace.

When God blesses us, it communicates to others that when you pursue the ways of God, you too may receive the blessings of God.

REASON #2 – When God blesses His people, it makes a statement about God's salvation. **67:2b**

When God blesses His people, it says to others—those people are in a right relationship with God. Blessings are a testimony that people need to get into a right relationship with the Lord. One of the great witness statements for the need of salvation is the blessings of God. When other people on earth see that God is blessing Israel, it testifies that they need to get into a right relationship with God, so they may also experience His blessings.

Paul says that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. We should be people who demonstrate an enjoyment for life so that others will want the salvation we have. Unfortunately, many Christians do not demonstrate a joy for anything.

REASON #3 – When God blesses His people, it promotes praise among people. **67:3-4a**

The particular Hebrew word for “people” in **verse 3** is one that emphasizes a collected, related group such as a race or family or relatives (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 635).

Verse 3 appears to me to emphasize that when God blesses His people, it causes all people of God to praise God. The truth is when God does bless Israel, all the people of God will praise God for it.

One commentator observed the more we offer praise to God, the more we are blessed by God. People who are right with God will have a sense that this is from God, and they will be moved to offer praise to God.

Now according to **verse 4**, when God blesses Israel, other nations will also be led to praise God. They will be glad, not jealous and they will sing for joy. This will of course happen in the Millennium. This will be a time when Israel will experience all the blessings of God and all nations of the world will rejoice at that.

REASON #4 – When God blesses His people, it is a statement about righteous judgment .
67:4b

When God blesses those who are right with Him, it also means He is judging those who are not right with Him. Those who are right with Him are getting His blessings and those who are not are not getting His blessings.

The eschatological point here is that when God blesses Israel, God will be here on earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, and He will be pouring out all of His upright judgments.

REASON #5 – When God blesses His people, it gives guidance to the nations. **67:4c**

When God blesses His people, it guides people in the way they ought to be moving. God's blessings say to all of us "walk this way for this is the way of My blessings." Selah—stop and think about it.

REASON #6 – When God blesses His people, all people praise God. **67:5-6**

Look carefully at **verse 6**; all people praise God when God blesses His people because they benefit too, because the earth has yielded its produce. This is obviously a Promised Land matter.

In other words, during the Millennium when Israel is being blessed, the whole earth will be blessed with millennial blessing.

REASON #7 – When God blesses His people, it promotes a fear of God. **67:7**

The blessings of God should promote a reverence toward God. People should stand in awe of what God has done and what God is doing.

What is so tragic these days is that many who have experienced God's grace do not have a reverent awe of God. People today can go to church and see a circus and, as a result, there is no reverence or fear for God. It is no wonder the world does not stand in awe of God.

I actually witnessed to an unsaved man who was vile in his speech. I confronted him with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and he told me, you know one thing that bothers me is that I have gone to some churches and it doesn't seem right to see bands on the platform. Now this was coming from the lips of a lost, unsaved, sinful man. He recognized the lack of reverence.

The blessings of God should result in a true fear of God.

Things worth considering:

1. None of us deserve the blessings of God, and all blessings stem from His grace.
2. As we pursue the true, pure ways of God, we will experience more of His blessings.
3. As we experience the blessings of God, we should be glad and praise God.
4. As we experience the blessings of God, we should be a witness for the greatness of God.
5. As we experience the blessings of God, we should bow in reverential fear before God.