

Psalm 67

New American Bible (1970)

New English Translation* (<http://www.bible.com>)

PSALM 67

Harvest Prayer that All Men May Worship God

1 *For the leader; with stringed instruments. A psalm; a song.*

I

2*† May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.

3 So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

4† May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

II

5 May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

6 May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

III

7 The earth has yielded its fruits;
God, our God, has blessed us.

8 May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

*

67, 2: Nm 6, 24f.

†

Ps. 67: The refrain (4.6 and perhaps originally after 8) calls on all the nations of the earth to praise the Lord, because he blesses Israel (2f), governs all peoples wisely (5), and bestows an abundant harvest (7). Israel's hope of seeing the Lord acknowledged as the only God by all the nations was based on, and found its sole fulfillment in, the promise of the Messiah. Cf Gn 12, 2f.

67, 2: These words are similar to the priestly blessing of Nm 6, 22-27.

67, 4.6: *Praise*: the Hebrew means more exactly, "give grateful praise"; hence, according to the context, it is often translated, "give thanks."

Psalm 67¹

67:1 May God show us his favor² and bless us!³
May he smile on us!⁴ (Selah)

67:2 Then those living on earth will know what you are like;
all nations will know how you deliver your people.⁵

67:3 Let the nations thank you, O God!
Let all the nations thank you!⁶

67:4 Let foreigners⁷ rejoice and celebrate!
For you execute justice among the nations,
and govern the people living on earth.⁸ (Selah)

67:5 Let the nations thank you, O God!
Let all the nations thank you!²

67:6 The earth yields its crops.
May God, our God, bless us!

67:7 May God bless us!¹⁰
Then all the ends of the earth will give him the honor he deserves.¹¹

*"The notes are of three sorts: **sn** = study notes, suitable for laypeople; **tn** = translators' notes that address exegetical and technical issues of translation; **tc** = text-critical notes, often including some discussion of external and internal evidence."

¹**sn** *Psalm 67*. The psalmist prays for God's blessing upon his people and urges the nations to praise him for he is the just ruler of the world.

²**tn** Or "have mercy on us."

³**tn** The prefixed verbal forms are understood as jussives expressing the psalmist's prayer. Note the jussive form רָצָה in the next line.

⁴**tn** *Heb* "may he cause his face to shine with us."

⁵**tn** *Heb* "to know in the earth your way, among all nations your deliverance." The infinitive with -לֵ expresses purpose/result. When God demonstrates his favor to his people, all nations will recognize his character as a God who delivers. The Hebrew term דֶּרֶךְ ("way") refers here to God's characteristic behavior, more specifically, to the way he typically saves his people.

⁶**tn** *Heb* "let the nations, all of them, thank you." The prefixed verbal forms in vv. 3-4a are understood as jussives in this call to praise.

⁷**tn** Or "peoples."

⁸**tn** *Heb* "for you judge nations fairly, and [as for the] peoples in the earth, you lead them." The imperfects are translated with the present tense because the statement is understood as a generalization about God's providential control of the world. Another option is to understand the statement as anticipating God's future rule ("for you will rule...and govern").

⁹**tn** *Heb* "let the nations, all of them, thank you." The prefixed verbal forms in v. 5 are understood as jussives in this call to praise.

¹⁰**tn** The prefixed verb forms in vv. 6b-7a are understood as jussives.

¹¹**tn** *Heb* "will fear him." After the jussive of the preceding line, the prefixed verbal form with prefixed *vav* conjunctive is understood as indicating purpose/result. (Note how v. 3 anticipates the universal impact of God showing his people blessing.) Another option is to take the verb as a jussive and translate, "Let all the ends of the earth fear him."