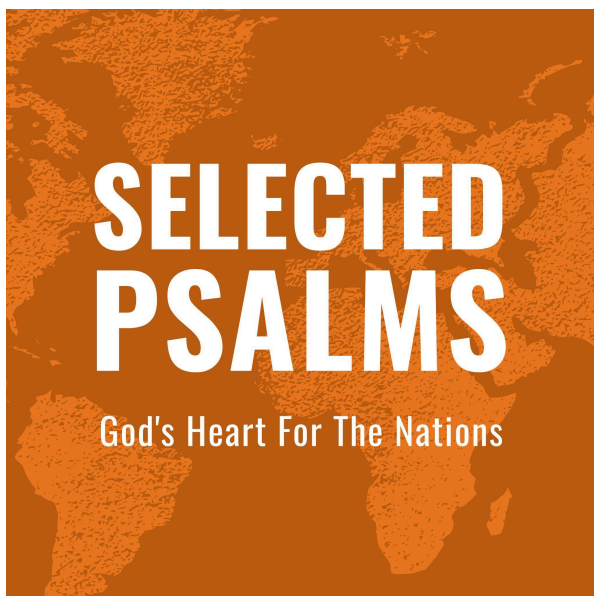




Selected Psalms: God's Heart For The Nations

Study Guide



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CHURCH
HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS

fccgreene.org

This Study Guide is intended to help you meaningfully participate in a preaching series and gain a better handle on God's Word. For maximum utility, don't skip parenthetical references—all of Scripture is God's interconnected special revelation. Some of the best insights are often found in wrestling through the references. Following an introduction to the book, series, or sermon, each week contains:

- Sermon Title, Passage, and space for Sermon Notes
- Passage's Main Points: Exegetical Focus, Theological Principles, Redemptive-Historical Significance
- Hermeneutical-Devotional Commentary (i.e., Scott's "Dad's Daily Devos," available at fccgreene.org/ddd.)
- Daily Bible Readings accompanying sermon themes.
- Life Group Discussion Guide: Summary and Questions¹
- Parent Pages/Kids Lessons. The L-E-A-D framework helps parents LEAD their children through God's Word in a simple, repeatable way that forms understanding, engagement, reflection, and lasting faith.
 - *Learn the Lesson* – Introduces the main truth of God's Word so children can understand what God has said (Deuteronomy 6:6; Nehemiah 8:8).
 - *Engage your Child* – Helps children interact with God's truth through shared activities and everyday conversations (Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6).
 - *Ask the Questions* – Encourages children to think carefully, respond personally, and grow in wisdom and discernment (Deuteronomy 6:20; Proverbs 2:1-5).
 - *Deposit the Word* – Focuses on storing God's Word in children's hearts through repetition and memory so it shapes their lives over time (Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 7:1-3; Colossians 3:16).

¹ We do our best to plan sermon titles, passages, points, etc. but such synchronicity between plans and execution doesn't always happen perfectly. Main differences might be: (1) Passage's Main Points, which will at least be similar to eventual sermon points, and (2) Sermon Titles, which are planned thematically in the Series Guide but may be changed by the preacher, who chooses a representative phrase from the passage as the eventual title.

Additional Resources: Sermon Guide, Manuscript, Parents Pages (for Middle/High School), Podcast, Fridge Magnet

- Sun Sermon Guide/Manuscript are on the app under “Home” and at fccgreene.org/sermonguide. For additional study, Scott’s manuscripts typically have extensive footnotes.
- Parent Pages (for Kids and Middle/High School students) and the Worship Guide are on the app under “Study Guides” and at fccgreene.org/studyguides.
- The Weekly Bible Study Podcast, posted every Thursday, helps prepare for next Sun. Available on the app under “Watch” > “Media,” on YouTube (youtube.com/fccgreene), or fccgreene.org/wbsp.
- Don’t forget to pray with/for your church! 2026 Fridge Magnets available at The Hub and fccgreene.org/2026fridgemagnet.



Helping People Find and Follow Jesus

Praise God for His many blessings and pray He will move in power in our church in 2026!

SUN – Thank God for another great worship service! **Pray for opportunities** this week to preach the gospel, tell the story of God’s work in your life, and hand someone an Invite Card!

MON – Thank God for opportunities to grow! **Pray for our weekly ministries**—Life Groups, Re:gen, Marriage Ministry, Pillar YA, and 180 Students—that we will grow in grace. See you at Life Group!

TUE – Thank God for those who serve! **Pray for our elders, staff, missionaries, and for one another**—for God to strengthen and encourage us for Kingdom mission. Send a text of encouragement to someone today!

WED – Thank God for community partnerships and outreach opportunities! **Pray for our community and school outreaches** to create Kingdom fruit. Help out at your next campus-specific outreach!

THU – Thank God for His many blessings that sustain us even when life is hard! **Pray for generous hearts** that joyfully give to fuel gospel ministry and meet growing needs in every campus and ministry.

FRI – Thank God for His faithfulness in the past year! **Pray for God’s favor and guidance with emerging opportunities**—synced curriculum, Catalyst expansion, Colombian church plant, Residents preaching/serving, producing resources and training leaders, Admin/Ops Director, Jan 2027 Launch of 4th Campus

SAT – Thank God for a Perfect Savior! **Pray for God to use our singing, prayer, and preaching** to strengthen us for another week of gospel service. See ya there—don’t forget your Bible and Series Guide!

Engage in Worship • Serve on the Team • Connect in a Small Group • Pray and Study the Bible Pursue Generosity • Identify with Christ • Tell the Story

Pillar Young Adults Breakouts

Pillar often syncs with Sunday mornings via this Study Guide. (Be done by 8:30p. When done, be respectful of groups still going.)

- (1) How is everyone doing?
- (2) What stuck out from the text? Thoughts or questions?
- (3) What is one next step or takeaway for your life?
- (4) Pray for one another.

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Introduction To The Series

Memory Verse: Psalm 67:1-2

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

The Series Logic

Because God designs His covenant blessing to orient outward, He blesses His people not for spiritual luxury or private comfort, but to mediate His saving light to the nations. Through this witness, all peoples know Him, rejoice in His righteous rule, and join in His global praise. Every psalm in this series builds on this central truth, moving Israel—and us—from passive consumers of grace to active, verbal witnesses who tell the story of the King who already won the victory.

Thematic Outline

Part One: The Invitation—"*Let All the Peoples Praise You*" (Psalm 67)

The series begins by turning the corporate power grid through the shared habit of Engage in worship. Adapting the Aaronic benediction and the Abrahamic promise, this opening movement establishes that God always links election to everyday boring faithfulness and covenant responsibility. We do not ask God to light up our lives so we can draw the curtains and retreat into a privatized, boutique spirituality; rather, we seek His blessing to make His saving power known globally. Here, we learn that universal worship—not our own prosperity—defines the controlling goal of God's goodness.

Part Two: The Proclamation—"*Declare His Glory Among the Nations*" (Psalm 96)

The Lit City cannot remain silent; light naturally spills beyond its walls. This movement shifts from invitation to an active, verbal imperative to publicly broadcast the universal reign of Yahweh in a world full of competing idols. We proclaim the King's worth not

because of human strategy, but because His sheer glory demands our speech, exposing all rival gods as completely empty and worthless.

Part Three: The Manifestation—"*The Lord Has Made Known His Salvation*" (Psalm 98)

Proclamation represents no sales pitch or speculative hope; it roots itself in objective, historical, accomplished redemption. Moving from who the King is to what He has decisively done, this movement celebrates a victory He publicly manifested in the sight of the nations. The news of this finished work so staggers our imagination that it causes all the earth and the entirety of creation to break forth in a loud, joyous, and ringing shout of praise.

Part Four: The Incorporation—"*Praise the Lord, All Nations*" (Psalms 117 and 87)

The series reaches its ultimate theological crescendo by revealing the final, beautiful shape of God's global Kingdom. We return to the universal summons to praise, but with a radical, mind-blowing twist: the gates of Zion swing wide open to former enemies. Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, and Tyre do not merely receive visitor passes; God tears up their old papers, issues them a new Kingdom passport, and welcomes them into the household of God. Foreigners become family, singing and dancing together as one multinational people of God.

The Pastoral Aim:

This sermon series does not constitute an academic study of ancient Hebrew poetry. Instead, it issues a pastoral call to lift our church's eyes above our comfortable, inward-facing horizons and align our hearts with God's unstoppable global purpose.

We aim to thoroughly dismantle the consumeristic easy-believism that treats God's blessing as a private spiritual luxury. We want to train our congregation to look at each everyday mercy—our families, our resources, our opportunities, and salvation itself—and view them not as dead-ends for personal enjoyment, but as a stewardship and covenant responsibility for meaningful participation in God's mission.

Ultimately, we want to move our people from quiet, comfortable appreciation into a community of active producers who tell the story of God's grace. By worshiping through these Psalms of fulfillment, we pray that our church will function like a city set on a hill—turning our blessings into testimonies so that the light of Christ spills over our walls and draws the ends of the earth to fear Him.

Aug 30, 2026 – Week 1 – “Let All The Peoples Praise You” (Psalm 67)

Main Passage: Psalm 67

To the Choirmaster: With stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

2 that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

6 The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

7 God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Exegetical Focus

- Psalm 67 adapts the Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6:24-26, transforming covenant blessing into a missional prayer whose purpose is that God's saving way be known among all nations.
- The repeated refrain in verses 3 and 5 identifies universal worship as the intended outcome of God's blessing and saving revelation.
- The psalm progresses from blessing received, to salvation known, to praise offered, to joyful submission under God's rule, culminating in worldwide fear of the Lord.

Theological Principles

- God's blessings are covenantal gifts intended to advance His redemptive purposes among the nations rather than terminate on His people (Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20).
- Worship is both the goal and result of God's saving work, as redeemed peoples respond to His grace with joyful praise (Psalm 22:27; Revelation 7:9-10).

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Daily Bible Readings:

- Mon – Numbers 6:22-27
- Tue – Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-14
- Wed – Isaiah 49:1-6
- Thu – Matthew 28:18-20
- Fri – Revelation 7:9-17
- Sat – Psalm 96 (“Declare His Glory Among The Nations”)

Life Group Summary (Especially For Leaders)

Psalm 67 teaches that God's blessings are never intended to terminate on His people. The psalm begins with a prayer for God's favor but quickly reveals the purpose behind that blessing: that God's saving power would become known among all nations. As the nations come to know Him, they praise Him, rejoice under His righteous rule, and ultimately fear Him. The psalm traces the mission of God from covenant blessing to global worship, a trajectory fulfilled through Christ and advanced through His church. Believers today are called to see every blessing as an opportunity to make God's salvation known.

Life Group Questions

- (1) What stands out most about the purpose of God's blessing in verses 1-2?
- (2) Why does the psalm connect God's blessing with making His salvation known among the nations?
- (3) What reasons does verse 4 give for the nations to rejoice under God's rule?
- (4) How does Psalm 67 connect to God's promises to Abraham and Christ's Great Commission?
- (5) What blessings has God given you that could become opportunities for gospel witness?
- (6) Share one area where you want to become more intentional in advancing God's mission, and pray for one another to live as faithful witnesses.

Kids Lessons

Early Childhood

Learn The Lesson: God blesses His people so others can learn about Him. God wants people everywhere to know, love, and praise Him.

Engage Your Child: Turn off the lights and use a flashlight. Explain that light helps people see. God blesses us so we can help others see who He is.

Ask The Question: Why does God bless His people?

Deposit The Word: Psalm 67:1-2 – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

Elementary

Learn The Lesson: Psalm 67 teaches that God blesses His people so His salvation becomes known throughout the world. God wants people from every nation to know Him and worship Him.

Engage Your Child: Find several countries on a globe or map. Pray for people living there to hear about Jesus and come to worship Him.

Ask The Questions:

1. Why did the psalmist ask God to bless His people?
2. What does it mean for God's salvation to become known?
3. Why should all nations praise God?

Deposit The Word: See above.

Sep 6, 2026 – Week 2 – “Declare His Glory Among The Nations” (Psalm 96)

NOTE: Psalms 96 and 98 are similar but different.

They share:

- “Oh sing to the LORD a new song” (v 1).
- Global summons (“all the earth,” “the nations,” “the peoples”).
- Creation rejoicing (96:11-12; 98:7-8).
- The Lord coming to “judge” with righteousness and equity (96:13; 98:9).

But their center of gravity is different:

Psalm 96 = Proclamation of Kingship (Declare the King.)

- Dominated by imperatives: sing, declare, ascribe, say.
- Climactic announcement: “The LORD reigns!” (v 10).
- Polemic against idols (“worthless idols,” v 5).
- Missional thrust = announce Yahweh’s kingship among rival gods.

Psalm 98 = Celebration of Accomplished Salvation (Declare what the King has done.)

- Dominated by perfect verbs: “has done marvelous things,” “has worked salvation,” “has made known,” “has revealed.”
- Focus on salvation as accomplished and publicly manifested.
- Missional thrust = celebrate and proclaim what God has already done.

Main Passage: Psalm 96

1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
6 Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
13 before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Exegetical Focus

- Psalm 96 is driven by a cascade of imperatives—"sing" (vv 1-2), "declare" (v 3), "ascribe" (vv 7-8), "say" (v 10)—pressing worship outward toward proclamation.
- Yahweh's kingship and creative supremacy (vv 4-6) are contrasted with the emptiness of idols ("worthless idols," v 5), grounding mission in theology rather than need.

- The psalm climaxes in the announcement “The Lord reigns” (v 10), linking proclamation among the nations with God’s righteous rule over the world.

Theological Principles

- God’s intrinsic worth, not human need alone, is the primary driver of global proclamation.
- True worship naturally presses outward into verbal declaration because God’s glory demands to be spoken.
- The reign of the Lord relativizes all rival powers and loyalties, exposing idols as empty and transient.

Redemptive-Historical Significance

- Psalm 96 anticipates the universal reign of Yahweh that would later be publicly proclaimed in the gospel of Christ (cf Psalm 96:10; Acts 17:31).
- The psalm establishes the pattern that redemptive reality precedes proclamation, prefiguring apostolic preaching grounded in Christ’s finished work (cf Acts 2:22-36).
- Redemptive history advances from covenant possession (Israel’s worship) to covenant proclamation (global announcement), preparing the way for the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Sermon Notes

[illegible]

Daily Bible Readings:

- Mon – John 1:1-3; Heb 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17 (Jesus created and sustains)
- Tue – 1 John 3:8; Col 2:13-15; Heb 10:12-13 (Jesus triumphed on the cross)
- Wed – Gen 12:1-3; Mark 11:17; Matt 28:18-20 (God's plan for all nations on earth)
- Thu – Matt 25:31-33; 2 Thess 1:5-10 (Jesus as the final judge)
- Fri – Rev 19:11-16; Phil 2:9-11 (Every knee will bow)
- Sat – Rev 5:1-14; Rev 7:9-10 (All nations worshiping in heaven)

Life Group Summary (Especially For Leaders)

Psalm 96 is a universal call to worship God because of his greatness (1-6), his glory and holiness (7-9), and because he is the righteous judge of the entire earth (10-13). God isn't just Israel's deity but the Lord of all people and nations. For your Life Group, the key emphasis should be on how all of Psalm 96 is ultimately fulfilled by Jesus, whether during his first coming, or ultimately in his second coming. Jesus is the one through whom all things were created (John 1:3; Heb 1:2), who reigns as king in Heaven (Heb 10:12-13), who upholds the universe (Heb 1:3), and whose work on the cross opened access to God's presence to the Gentiles (Mark 11:17; Heb 10:19-22). One day he will return in glory to sit on David's throne and judge all people (Matt 25:31-32; 2 Thess 1:9-10) because he is faithful and true (Rev 19:11). Before him every knee will bow in worship (Phil 2:9-11) on the Day of Christ (1 Cor 1:8).

Life Group Questions

- (1) How does Psalm 96 fit with Jesus's words in Matt 28:19-20 and the picture of Heaven in Rev 5:9-10?

- (2) Why is it important to "tell of his salvation from day to day" (verse 2)?

- (3) How should a forgiven Christian "tremble" before the Lord" (verse 9)?

- (4) When you are angered by injustice against you or others, how can the truth of verse 13 be helpful?
- (5) In what ways does Jesus fulfill Psalm 96? (see Heb 1:2-3, Mark 11:17, Matt 25:31-32, Rev 19:11, Phil 2:9-11)
- (6) What change can you make this week so that your life is directed more toward the worship of God?

Kids Lessons

Early Childhood

Learn The Lesson: All people should worship God, because he made us and is great!

Engage Your Child: Sing a praise song to God with hands in the air, or practice bowing in silence before God.

Ask The Question: Why should we worship God?

Deposit The Word: Psalm 67:1-2 – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

Elementary

Learn The Lesson: God created everyone and so all people should worship him. Only God is holy (perfect) and worthy of our praise. Jesus will return one day and be the final judge for every sin.

Engage Your Child: Ask the children to name things that we sometimes care more about than God.

Ask The Questions:

1. Why should we worship God?
2. What type of people will be in heaven?
3. If Jesus is the judge, how should you respond when someone hurts you?

Deposit The Word: See above.

Sep 13, 2026 – Week 3 – “The Lord Has Made Known His Salvation” (Psalm 98)

See “NOTE: Psalms 96 and 98 are similar but different” at the beginning of Psalm 96.

Main Passage: Psalm 98

A Psalm.

1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

2 The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the
sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing
praises!

5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the
LORD!

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together

9 before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Exegetical Focus

- Psalm 98 celebrates God's accomplished salvation through repeated perfect verbs ("has done," "has made known," "has remembered"), grounding worship in divine accomplishment rather than human effort.
- The psalm deliberately expands from Israel to the nations and finally to all creation, demonstrating the universal scope of God's redemptive purposes.
- The closing vision of righteous judgment presents Christ's return as the joyful completion of God's saving work rather than merely condemnation.

Theological Principles

- God's saving work is objective, historical, and accomplished, forming the foundation for proclamation rather than speculation.
- Salvation is not merely promised but revealed—publicly displayed “in the sight of the nations”—so that the world responds to a manifested reality rather than a private experience.
- God's righteousness is covenantal faithfulness in action; because He “has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness,” redemption generates joy, global praise, and confident hope in His coming just rule.

Redemptive-Historical Significance

- Psalm 98 celebrates salvation as an objective, historical act of God, anticipating the once-for-all saving work of Christ (cf Isaiah 52:10; Luke 2:30-32).
- The psalm frames salvation as something revealed to the nations, laying the groundwork for gospel proclamation as announcement rather than invention (cf Romans 1:16-17).
- Redemptive history shifts from promise and anticipation to public manifestation, fulfilled climactically in the cross and resurrection (cf Hebrews 1:1-3).

[illegible]

Daily Bible Readings:

- Mon – Exodus 15:1-18
- Tue – Isaiah 52:7-10
- Wed – Psalm 96
- Thu – Luke 1:46-55; 2:25-32
- Fri – Romans 8:18-25
- Sat – Psalm 117; Psalm 87 (“Praise The Lord, All Nations”)

Life Group Summary (Especially For Leaders)

Psalm 98 celebrates God's accomplished salvation. Unlike Psalm 96, which emphasizes proclaiming God's kingship, Psalm 98 rejoices in what the King has already done. God's mighty acts of redemption culminate in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, resurrection, and coming return fulfill the hopes of this psalm. Because God's salvation has been publicly revealed, His people respond with joyful worship, faithful witness, and eager anticipation of Christ's return.

Life Group Questions

- (1) Why does Psalm 98 command a "new song"? What makes God's salvation continually worthy of fresh praise?
- (2) How is Psalm 98 different from Psalm 96? Why is that distinction important?
- (3) What does it mean that God has "made known His salvation before the nations"?
- (4) Why does creation rejoice over God's coming judgment rather than fear it?

- (5) How should Christ's finished work shape our weekly worship?
- (6) In what practical ways can our church make God's salvation more visible within our community?

Kids Lessons

Early Childhood

Learn The Lesson: The Bible teaches that God has made His salvation known. Psalm 98 says we should sing to the Lord because He has done wonderful things. God sent Jesus to save sinners, and this good news is for people all over the world.

Engage Your Child: Play a happy song and march around the room like a celebration parade. Explain that God's people sing because God is the King who saves.

Ask The Question: Why do we sing to the Lord?

Deposit The Word: Psalm 67:1-2 – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

Elementary

Learn The Lesson: Psalm 98 teaches that God has already accomplished salvation and made it publicly known. Because God has saved His people, all the earth is called to worship Him. Even creation is pictured as rejoicing because the Lord will come to judge the world with righteousness and make all things right.

Engage Your Child: Ask your child to think of exciting news they would not want to keep secret, such as a birthday, a new baby, or a big victory. Explain that the gospel is better news than all of those things because Jesus has accomplished salvation and His good news is for all nations.

Ask The Questions:

1. What has the Lord made known?
2. Why should all the earth praise God?
3. Why is God's judgment good news for those who trust Him?
4. How can we help others hear about Jesus?

Deposit The Word: See above.

**Sep 20, 2026 – Week 4 – “Praise The Lord, All Nations”
(Psalm 117/87)**

Main Passages: Psalm 117 & Psalm 87

Psalm 117

1 Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 87

A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song.

1 On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

3 Glorious things of you are spoken,
O city of God. Selah

4 Among those who know me I mention Rahab
and Babylon;

behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush—
“This one was born there,” they say.

5 And of Zion it shall be said,
“This one and that one were born in her”;
for the Most High himself will establish her.

6 The LORD records as he registers the peoples,
“This one was born there.” Selah

7 Singers and dancers alike say,
“All my springs are in you.”

Exegetical Focus

- Psalm 117 is framed by *hallelu* praise and driven by plural imperatives, summoning “all nations” and “all peoples” to worship Israel’s covenant God because His *chesed* (steadfast love, loyalty, merciful kindness) and *emet* (truth, reliability, covenant firmness) prevail forever.
- Psalm 87 centers on repeated passive birth language, “This one was born there,” showing that Zion citizenship is received by divine declaration, not achieved by ethnicity, ancestry, or geography.

- Psalm 87:7 completes the movement with unified worship and satisfaction, as singers and dancers confess, “All my springs are in you,” linking Zion citizenship with life-giving joy.

Theological Principles

- God’s covenant love is particular in revelation but universal in aim; He keeps His promises to Abraham so all families of the earth are blessed in Christ (Genesis 12:3; Romans 15:8-11).
- True membership in God’s people rests on divine grace, new birth, and God’s heavenly register, not natural descent or cultural proximity (John 3:3-8; Ephesians 2:13-19; Hebrews 12:22-24).
- Biblical mission aims at worship: God saves the nations so they praise His name, delight in His city, and find their life in Him (Psalm 86:9; Revelation 7:9-10).

Redemptive-Historical Significance

- Psalm 117 compresses the Abrahamic promise into a doxology, anticipating Gentile praise as the intended outcome of God’s covenant faithfulness (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8; Romans 15:11).
- Psalm 87 anticipates the mystery more fully revealed in the new covenant: Gentiles are not second-class guests but fellow citizens and members of God’s household (Ephesians 2:19; 3:4-6).
- Zion’s springs point forward to the life of the Spirit and the new creation, where the river of life flows from God and the Lamb to the nations (Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 7:37-39; Revelation 22:1-5).

Sermon Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Daily Bible Readings:

- Mon – Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:7-14
- Tue – Exodus 34:5-7; Psalm 117
- Wed – Psalm 86:8-13; Isaiah 2:2-4
- Thu – Isaiah 19:18-25; Zechariah 8:20-23
- Fri – Ephesians 2:11-22; Romans 15:8-13
- Sat – Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5
- Sun – 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (“A Little Leaven Leavens The Whole Lump”)

Life Group Summary (Especially For Leaders)

Psalm 117 and Psalm 87 show that God's heart for the nations was sung in Israel long before the Great Commission. Psalm 117 summons all nations to praise the Lord because His steadfast love and faithfulness prevail forever. Psalm 87 then shows the deeper miracle: former enemy nations are counted as born in Zion, officially registered by God Himself. Together, these psalms move from global invitation to covenant incorporation to shared joy. Lead your group to see that the church's mission is not a modern add-on but the fulfillment of God's ancient purpose in Christ.

Life Group Questions

- (1) What reasons does Psalm 117 give for calling all nations and peoples to praise the Lord?

- (2) Why is it surprising that Psalm 87 names Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush as Zion citizens?

- (3) How does the repeated phrase "This one was born there" deepen our understanding of grace?

- (4) How do Romans 15:8-11 and Ephesians 2:11-22 help interpret these psalms through Christ?

- (5) Where might our church be tempted to treat grace as private, familiar, or culturally narrow?
- (6) Share one person or people group you struggle to welcome or reach, and pray for gospel love.

Kids Lessons

Early Childhood

Learn The Lesson: God wants people from every nation to praise Him. Because Jesus saves sinners, people who were far away from God can become part of God's family and city.

Engage Your Child: Draw a big city with open gates. Add people from many places walking in. Explain that God welcomes everyone who trusts Jesus.

Ask The Question: Who does God want to praise Him?

Deposit The Word: Psalm 67:1-2 – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

Elementary

Learn The Lesson: Psalm 117 calls all nations to praise the Lord, and Psalm 87 shows God counting people from many nations as born in Zion. This points to Jesus, who brings outsiders near and makes believers citizens of God's kingdom.

Engage Your Child: Make a pretend “citizenship certificate” that says, “God welcomes all who trust Jesus.” Talk about how citizenship in God's kingdom comes by grace, not background.

Ask The Questions:

1. What does Psalm 117 command all nations to do?
2. Why is it amazing that former enemy nations are called “born” in Zion?
3. How does Jesus bring people from every nation into God's family?

Deposit The Word: See above.



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