

## Blessed to be His blessing

Psalm 67

1 God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us -- Selah.

Gracious = cause Your favor and mercy to be with us

Bless = same word as in Gen 1:28

Blessed: barak בָּרַךְ (to bend the knees, to kneel) i.e. get down on your knees to ask for favor

This is a picture of humility, the lesser coming to the greater for help. Since we know God is always the greater, this word becomes a picture of His grace: His proactive choice to release life, favor and provision, to cause to prosper, to be abundant.

To give favor, to cause to prosper, by virtue of intensive, intentional action which is not finished or complete but ongoing. Grace. This is the very nature of God, to give favor and blessing. This ongoing blessing is what makes it possible for us to experience the fulfillment of His declaration!

Face to shine = the favor of His face, His presence, intimacy with Him

2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Way = manner of life, character

Known = to know by experience

Salvation = welfare, prosperity, deliverance, saved from enemies by God, victory

Yeshua!

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 will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah.

Judge = For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary, the Greek word for "judgment" here is best understood to mean, "the process of judgment leading to a decision." This is *not* about God punishing us (as much as we may deserve it), but rather about the goal of humbling ourselves before Him in order to hear what changes He wants to make in both our individual lives and in the Church. Whatever change He reveals is to be met with immediate obedience because we have determined in advance to agree with Him and implement the change He requires of us.

5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.

7 God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

Fear = to stand in awe of, be awed, to fear, reverence, honour, respect