

Everyone, Praise The Lord! – Psalm 117

Intro: Is Psalm 117 the center of the Bible?

- A. If counting verses, that would be Psalm 118:8-9
- B. If counting chapters, it would indeed be Psalm 117
 - 1. Where Psalm 119 (longest chapter) goes to great lengths to extol God, Ps 117 is concise - in fact, it is shortest chapter in the Bible.
- C. It may be the “center” for other reasons:
 - 1. It makes a short appeal for what is humanity’s purpose: To glorify our Creator.
 - 2. It lays forth simply the foundational reasons why humanity should praise God.
 - 3. It has been termed a Messianic psalm since it seems to point to the Savior’s ministry of calling all peoples, Jew and Gentile, to God’s great mercy and enduring truth.

I. Vs 1: Who – All Nations

- A. Heb “*goyim*” (Gentiles - NKJ) only appears in the Bible (except for rare instances) and usually refers to foreign nations.
 - 1. It’s a reminder that ALL people were not only created by Yahweh, but are invited to Him to honor Him.
 - 2. Note that the Psalmist refers to God by His name: Yahweh
 - a. “Jehovah” is a form created by a 16th cent German scribe and the usage stuck.
- B. It is God’s will that ALL people together rejoice in Him
 - 1. **Rom 15:8-13; Gal 3:28**

II. Vs 1: What – Praise Yahweh

- A. People honor Him by living the purpose for which they were created.
 - 1. God created man to honor Him through relationship
 - a. **Acts 17:24-28**
 - 2. Man also honors God by managing His creation well
 - a. **Psalm 8:3-9**
 - 3. This is not for Hebrews only, ALL people are called to praise and honor their Creator.

III. Vs 2: Why

- A. The Psalmist offers two foundational reasons why praise to Yahweh is appropriate.
- B. Reason 1: His loving-kindness is great!
 - 1. Loving-kindness (merciful kindness - KJV, NKJ; love - NIV) comes in abundance from God in many ways.
 - 2. He showers with material blessings
 - a. **Matt 5:45; Acts 14:16-17**
 - b. Throughout time, God has shown His kindness toward His creation in the perpetuity of life and nature for our good.
 - 3. There is no greater show of His mercy than the plan fulfilled in His Son.
 - a. While our sin deserved anything but kindness, God has shown Himself both gracious and merciful in providing eternal salvation.
 - (1) Throughout man’s history, God had been weaving a tapestry of mercy that would finally be completely woven in His Son
 - (2) **Eph 1:3-14**
 - b. Sometimes, in the rush of life, we Gentiles forget the great lengths to which God has gone to offer His mercy!
- C. Reason 2: His truth is enduring!
(Truth: stability, faithfulness)
 - 1. Since God cannot lie, we can trust Him.
 - a. **Heb 6:13-19**
 - b. When he makes a promise, it sticks.
 - c. When He issues a warning, we can know the consequences will come true - **2 Tim 2:13**
 - 2. In His word we are reminded that God,
 - a. In his attributes — he is always faithful.
 - b. In his revelation — always infallible.
 - c. In his action — always according to promise.

Conc: In these short verses lie the underpinning of our service to Yahweh.

- A. Let us who know Him, call on others to praise the Lord by living according to the purpose for which they were created.
- B. INV