

WEEK ONE
DAY TWO

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us, Selah
Psalm 67:1

We are memorizing these verses in English, but they were originally written in Hebrew. We will aim to look at the Hebrew words each week that make up the verse being memorized. I hope you'll use it to meditate on the depth of the meaning of the very Word of God. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you and speak to your heart. Make notes in the journal section below, and practice writing the verse by memory if you would like.

May God

אֱלֹהִים
'elohiym

– (plural) can mean rulers, judges; in this case the supreme God

be gracious to us

חָנַן
chanan

– to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to be gracious; to show favor, pity

and bless us

בָּרַךְ
barak

– to kneel, bless, or be blessed

and make His face

פָּנִים
paniym

– the face (as the part that turns), presence

to shine upon us

אֹר
'owr

– to be or become light, make luminous, break of day, glorious, kindle, set on fire, shine.

Selah

סֵלָה
celah

– a musical pause in which we can stop and think about what has been said.

Journal

WEEK ONE
DAY THREE

Psalm 67:1

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**

We begin our year of meditating and memorizing in the Psalms with Psalm 67, a powerful prayer, which reveals the missionary heart of God. Preliminary information is given, which may indicate that this Psalm belonged to the choir director's collection of works. There is also the liturgical notation that stringed instruments are to accompany the song. As you read through the entire Psalm, imagine a melody to which these words could be sung, accompanied with stringed instruments!

Since our memory verse this week is an adaptation of the Aaronic blessing found in Numbers 6, let's begin by taking a look at that passage.

Numbers 6:22-26

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

What are the components of this priestly blessing? What do you learn about God from this passage? What does this passage teach about humans as compared with God?

Re-read our memory verse from Psalm 67:1, and note how it compares and contrasts with the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6.

Use the blessing in Numbers 6 to formulate a prayer of thanksgiving to God for these specific things He does for you. Let us take time to marvel at His amazing love and grace!

WEEK ONE
DAY FOUR

Psalm 67:1

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**

Taking a closer look at Psalm 67:1, we see that the prayer is addressed to the one true God, the uncreated One, who is transcendent above all created matter in the universe. The God of the Bible is not a tribal deity, but is the rightful Sovereign over all that is seen and unseen. He is the Promise Maker and the Promise Keeper, who says in Isaiah 46:9-11:

**Remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'
calling a bird of prey from the east,
the man of my counsel from a far country.
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;
I have purposed, and I will do it.**

In contrast, the author of this Psalm and we who memorize it, have committed cosmic treason against the One True God. We deserve His wrath and eternal judgment. How could we presume to petition this Holy God, asking for His favor and blessing? Only because of His mercy can we dare to approach Him.

As we memorize and recite verse 1, let us bow in humility, gratitude, and awe at His amazing grace that redeems us - though we were His enemies and deserved only His judgment - and allows us to draw near to Him through Christ.

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

Walter Smith

WEEK ONE
DAY FIVE

Psalm 67:1

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**

The prayer we are memorizing begins with the request that God be gracious to us – that is, that He extend His grace to us, though we are undeserving. (Some translations use the word ‘merciful’ rather than ‘gracious’). The second request in verse 1 is for God’s blessing. The third request is for God to show His favor to us.

Stop now and recall how and when God first extended His grace to you. When did He reveal His mercy to you and bring you to salvation through Christ? Thank Him for His grace in your life.

Now think back to the many ways God has blessed you over the years of your life. Where would you be, if He had not blessed you as He has? Thank Him for His many blessings.

In what ways has God shown favor to you this past year? How has His favor rested upon you to guide your path through the years? Thank Him for the ways He has made His face shine upon you. How amazing to serve such a benevolent God, who will be faithful in the future, as He has been in the past!

In *The Book of Common Prayer*, first published in the mid-1500’s, there is a prayer that verbalizes the three petitions found in Psalm 67:1. As we join countless believers who have offered this prayer over almost five centuries, note how the requests of the Psalmist are integrated so beautifully into the prayer.

O Gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness; we beseech thee of thine infinite goodness to hear us, who now make our prayers and supplications unto thee. Remember not our sins, but thy promises of mercy. Vouchsafe to bless the lands and multiply the harvests of the world. Let thy breath go forth that it may renew the face of the earth. Show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and so fill us with good things that the poor and needy may give thanks unto thy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

