

WEEK FIVE
DAY TWO

“Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!”
Psalm 67:5

Let the peoples

עַם `am

– a people(s), nation(s), a tribe(s), men,
figuratively: a flock

praise

יָדָה yadah

– hold out the hand, throw, revere or
worship (with extended hands); to
bemoan, make confession, praise, give
thanks

you, O God;

אֱלֹהִים 'elohiym

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

let all

כָּל kol

– the whole; all, any or every;
whosoever

the peoples

עַם `am

– a people(s), nation(s), a tribe(s), men,
figuratively: a flock

praise you!

יָדָה yadah

– hold out the hand, throw, revere or
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In verses 1 and 2 the psalmist asks that God's saving power would be known throughout all the earth. It is for this saving power—for salvation itself—that the writer calls on all people to praise God.

Today, perhaps, we are not surprised by this verse, and yet, in 1000 B.C. or so when this was written, the salvation of all the earth was prophetic indeed. The Hebrew people considered themselves the only "people of God." And yet, as the Holy Spirit inspired this writer, the word "people" here in Hebrew does not mean only the congregation of God's people, but all of humanity.

How will God reveal this saving power to all humanity but in the revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ. If you know this saving power, this Savior of all mankind, then you have cause to bless His Name and to praise His Father Who is in Heaven for your redemption.

Indeed, today, sit before God and remember the time that He came into your life and through the power of the Holy Spirit brought you out of the slave market of sin and into His glorious light. As you turn the pages of your memory, thank Him for Jesus Who called you to be His from before the beginning of time, washed you with His precious blood that you might be pure and spotless before Him. Thank Him for those He used to speak His truth to you and introduced you to Life everlasting. Indeed, praise Him from whom all blessings flow!

You might want to write here your special praises as you remember how God has changed you through your redemption in Jesus.

~ Vicki Gillespie

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DAY FOUR

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When I think of the word PRAISE, my thoughts immediately go to a picture of our hands lifted to Heaven as we fall on our knees. When we think of praising God, we realize we are putting a power above ourselves to acknowledge a power more awesome than anything we can imagine. When this happens we become one with the power. This is the moment when we throw all our thoughts into this one overwhelming feeling that God is all in all.

~ Carolyn Caswell

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Psalm 67:5**

Looking at the meaning of a word in Scripture as it was used in its original language can help us understand what it might mean for us today. In the Hebrew, the word for “praise” here is “yadah.” This is the expression of thanks to God by means of praising. In this context, “bless” is also a good translation, and the act of praise leads to thanksgiving. Would you like a lesson in praise? God had provided even that. The last 5 psalms in the Book of Psalms, Psalms 145-150, are all praise. They are called “doxologies,” because they give glory to God.

The Book of Psalms was the hymnbook of the Hebrew people, and all these psalms were sung in worship or on the way to worship for hundreds and hundreds of years before Christ and in the church ever after. Even though we do not know the original tunes, new music has been written for many of these wonderful words.

Today, spend time thinking about praise by joining David and the other psalmists in reading aloud the last five psalms--read them aloud to God, sing them to God, and make them your own by putting your name in every place the pronoun “I” occurs.

My prayer for you, dear heart, is through praising our precious LORD, you will know “How blessed are the people (put your name here) whose God is the LORD” (Psalm 144:15b).

~ Vicki Gillespie

