



A CALL TO PRAISE

PSALM 117

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Psalm 117 is both the shortest Psalm and the shortest chapter in all the Bible. Do not let its brevity lessen its significance. This short psalm is filled with powerful truths and encouragement. Spurgeon was right, “this psalm, which is very little in its letter, is exceedingly large in its spirit, for, bursting all bounds of race or nationality, it calls upon all mankind to praise the name of the Lord.” Luther wrote a 36 page commentary on Psalm 117. That is 18 pages per verse! The four aspects of Psalm 117 that Martin Luther addressed in his 36 page commentary of this chapter are:

- Prophecy: the Gentiles will be included in God’s plan of redemption!
- Revelation: the Messiah’s kingdom is heavenly and eternal, not earthly
- Instruction: we are saved by grace alone, not by works, holiness or wisdom
- Admonition: because of these things we should praise the Lord!

THE CALL TO PRAISE (117:1)

Other psalms invite the nations to praise the God of Israel. (Psalms 22:27–31; 47:1; 100:1; 113:2–4)

- “all nations”
- “all peoples”

Paul quotes Psalm 117 in Romans 15:11, sharing the psalmist’s assumption that the LORD is highest God, to whom all the world is subject. Paul argues that the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s salvation is not a divine afterthought. (Acts 11:1-18; Romans 5:8-12; Romans 15:8-12)

THE CAUSE FOR PRAISE (117:2)

- “for His lovingkindness is great toward us” – Our God is a God of love!
- “the truth of the Lord is everlasting” – Our God is trustworthy, God keeps His promises!

THE COMPULSION TO PRAISE (117b)

“praise the Lord”

This chapter at the very heart of the Bible, revealed the heart of God. This was a peek at the Gospel message. In response, we are compelled by God’s faithful love and His everlasting truth, to worship and adore Him, for He is worthy!!!

Psalm 117 opens and closes with the same word, “praise” or “hallelujah.” People everywhere are commanded and invited to praise God! There is no God like Jehovah!!

Revelation 7:9–10 (NASB95)

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”