# Harvest Sermon Outline

## Psalm 67

***You may also wish to refer to Matthew 15 and that Jesus is the hope for the whole world.***

### A psalm of praise and thanksgiving

* On the face of it, Psalm 67 is simply a psalm of praise and thanksgiving – and it’s right to start here. Harvest is typically a time where we praise God for all his blessings and seek his continued blessing on us and our land. This psalm helps us to do that. ‘Psalm 67 makes it clear that the blessing is unashamedly material. When God shines his face … we are talking harvests, not just holiness.’ (Stackhouse, p69\*).
* In our gathered and scattered discipleship, it is important that our basic spiritual posture is one of praise and thanksgiving. In all circumstances give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18), because God is Lord over all things (Psalm 24:1, Colossians 1:16–17).
* Psalm 67 is also, however, a prayer for the salvation of all nations and a blessing on our world. Through a Christological lens, we could read this as the harvest of the nations (see John 4:35).
* It is a psalm that can help us re-orientate our priorities as followers of Christ.

### Rooted in history

* Vv1–2 echo the priestly blessing of Israel (Numbers 6:24-26) and the promise that Israel, through Abraham, would be a blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:3).
* The psalm is a reminder of that vision that the whole earth would, through the faithfulness of God’s people, see the love and glory of God (Isaiah 49:6).

### A vision of the future

* For the people of Israel, this psalm points prophetically to the promise that the people of Israel would be a light to the nations. This isn’t just a blessing they are seeking for themselves, but one that can be passed from them to others.
* In the Old Testament, prophecies and promises are often found in songs or prayers, as seen in this psalm.
* For ancient Jews, prophecies and promises would see their fulfilment in the times of the coming Messiah.
* For Christians, this time is now – we are in the days of Christ and his Kingdom. The goodness and blessings of Christ are for all people – now!

### Application for the Church

* Whilst we can praise God and thank him for the physical harvest of food and crops and his blessings on our lives (v6), it is important to note that the salvation among all nations starts with (a) the blessing and mercy of God (v1) and (b) the praise of God’s people (v5).
* The answer to the prayer in the psalm is through the testimony and praise of the Church. All the world shall be brought to worship him, beginning with us.
* Scripture is confident in this; it is therefore not only a possibility but also a promise. It is not a vague dream, but a certainty. As we engage with our local communities, we are prophetically declaring salvation to the world. As we declare God’s goodness and sing his praises, both on a Sunday and during the week, we are raining down God’s blessings on this Earth. As we adjust our spiritual posture to one of gratitude and faithfulness, our relationship with God will bear fruit and bear witness for the Kingdom.
* We can be confident that God will use his people to bring salvation and blessing.
* How will the world know of God’s benevolent love and mercy if it doesn’t start with the Church – with you and me?
* V7 is also a subtle reminder that God’s Kingdom is not limited or confined by anything: ‘all the ends of the earth will fear him’. We can be confident of God’s rule and reign over all things, both seen and unseen. The ends of the earth (and everything in between) will fear (worship) him and ultimately confess the lordship of Jesus (see also Philippians 2:10–11), because of what they have seen of God’s blessing in us.
* As we give thanks for God’s gifts and give out our harvest donations, may we also share the good news of Jesus.
* In this psalm we see the material and the spiritual coming together. God is Lord of all. Through our thanksgiving for the harvest and our praise for our salvation, may our whole life reflect our gratitude to God and be a blessing to others.

\*Stackhouse, I, *Praying Psalms, A Personal Journey through the Psalms.* Oregon: Cascade Books, 2018.