



The Shortest Psalm in the Bible

Did you know? There are 1189 chapters in the Bible. The very center chapter of the Bible is the 595th chapter. This is Psalm 117, which also happens to be the shortest of Psalms or chapters in the Bible.

Psalm 117

1. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him all ye people.

2. For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.

1.) **Psalm 117 begins with PRAISE!** This is the central activity of our lives, both here on earth and in eternity to come. Praising and fellowshiping with our Creator is WHY we were created. The word “praise” used the first time in verse 1 means *to shine, make a show, to boast and thus to be clamorously foolish, to rave, to celebrate, to make renowned.*

2.) **All the nations** (*Gentiles, heathen, masses, foreign nations*) **are commanded to praise the Lord.** The government of our God supersedes every earthly government. Whether willingly or in regrettable realization at the end of all things, every nation SHALL bow before the Lord and acknowledge that He alone is King of kings. This phrase reminds us that, no matter what may be occurring among the nations in these turbulent times, ALL will be made right when King Jesus takes His rightful place on the throne of glory.

3.) **All the people** (*multitude, population*) **are commanded to praise** (*address in a loud tone, glory, triumph, commend*) **Him.** Each individual soul is commanded here to bring to the Lord what is due Him alone. As the **nations** are the names, governments, identities and leadership of each country, so the **people** are the residents and households of the nations. From the youngest to the oldest, all people are to be taught how to praise Holy God.

4.) **Why praise Him? Because His merciful** (*kindly, loving, showing favor, full of pity, beautiful*) **kindness** (*same word! favor, love, beauty, mercy, pity*) **is great** (*strong, exceeding, mighty, valiant*) **toward us!** The writer’s use of the same word twice is akin to saying God’s majesty is majestic, His love is loving, His beauty is beautiful! It is a superlative of just how very kind and merciful HE is to us! That double blessing is GREAT toward us, and it is combined with...

5.) **HIS TRUTH! The truth** (*trustworthiness, certainty, rightness, establishment, verity, assurance, stability, faithfulness*) **of the Lord endureth** (*continues, confirms, dwells, remains, stands fast, stands firm, stays*) **forever** (*continuously, eternally, perpetually, without end*). Though the world is violently attempting to change the precepts of the Lord, they simply will not be changed. As He is unchanging, so is His Word. Seeing how this verse marries together God’s perfect virtues of merciful kindness and enduring truth, we are reminded of **Psalm 85:10**, which says, “Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

6.) **Finally, we are commanded once again in this “Psalm Sandwich” to PRAISE THE LORD!** Our fervent prayer as Christians ought to be that the “bookends” of our life in Him are PRAISE! When all is said and done, this is our greatest calling, and we are even now being trained up in how to praise our King Jesus through all eternity. Each day, we are offered the opportunity to begin and end that day with praise. This is a conscious decision which engages constant communion with the Holy Spirit, and it is a powerful weapon in our arsenal of victorious spiritual warfare.

GOAL: Memorize this Psalm. Make it a song in your heart!