

People from All Nations

People from all nations will come and see His glory.

Are You Hungry?

Why are criminals punished when they disobey the law?

Every country has laws that help govern the nation. They are made to protect the people and bring justice and order to the country. When criminals break the law, however, they are punished for their disobedience because they have knowingly committed actions that could harm others and themselves. Their punishment is a consequence of their breaking the law, and it can help motivate them not to disregard the law again. In this passage, we see God execute His judgment against those who sin, but we also see His grace and love for people from all nations.

Taste and See

Who are the recipients of God's judgment (v. 17)? Why are they being punished?

God will pour out His wrath on those who defile and dishonor Him through their idolatry.

Rituals are meant to cleanse God's people and bring Him glory, but some people defile and dishonor Him through their actions. In Leviticus 11, God specifically tells the Israelites to abstain from eating pigs, rats, and other unclean animals. Those who do not follow His commands demonstrate that they do not care about being holy or remaining clean. Others may appear to consecrate and purify themselves, but their motive is not to worship God; they have their own selfish motives. God declares that such people will face judgment, and they will meet their end for their idolatry and sin.

Why does God hate idolatry and sin?

When God created us, He did so out of sheer grace. He was not obligated to create us, and we did not do anything to deserve the truths He revealed to us through Scripture. From the beginning, God loved His people, and He has desired to be in relationship with us. That is why He sent His Son to bring salvation to the world and to restore our relationship with Him. If we continue to sin by worshiping idols and rejecting His mercy and grace, we will walk straight into destruction. Thankfully, God gives us the opportunity to repent. May we not take His grace for granted but repent and live according to His will.

Who will come and see God's glory (vv. 18–20)?

People from all nations and languages will gather together and proclaim His glory.

Though Israel is God's chosen nation, He declares that one day people of all nations and languages will come to see His glory. As a sign, He will send His people to faraway lands and distant islands that have not heard of Him, and they will proclaim His glory. People from all nations will then come to the LORD, bringing offerings to worship Him. Some will even be chosen as priests and Levites. God does not limit His glory and grace to one ethnic background. People from all nations have the opportunity to be His people and participate in glorious corporate worship.

How should we view unbelievers and people from other nations?

God has not limited His people to one nation or people group. He has allowed people from all nations and languages to be a part of His family, and we will be able to worship Him together in heaven for all eternity! If this pleases God, then it should be our joy to honor and respect people from all nations and to see unbelievers as potential followers of Christ. As we encounter those who do not yet know the Gospel, we can share God's love for them and invite them to receive His grace so that they can join us in giving Him all the honor and praise!

Chew on This

What idols distract people from receiving the Gospel? How can these idols be removed?

One of the greatest idols is ourselves, and we can remove this idol from our lives when we repent of our sins and worship Christ alone.

Many people worship other gods because they want to be blessed and lead comfortable lives. The greatest idol is actually the self because we are motivated to worship whatever will please us and satisfy our desires. When we encounter the Gospel, however, the Holy Spirit convicts us of their idolatry and sin. As we confess and repent of these sins and dedicate our lives to Christ, our idols are replaced with the only One worthy of worship. May we be faithful messengers of the Gospel so that even more people will be able to join in giving God the worship He deserves.

Psalm 87:1–7

GROUP
DEVOTION

04

Born in Zion

God's kingdom consists of people from all nations and backgrounds.

Are You Hungry?

Have you met Christians from other nations? How are they similar to or different from you?

One benefit of traveling to other nations or participating in a missions trip abroad is that you are exposed to people from different backgrounds. Fellowship with brothers and sisters from various ethnicities can give us a taste of the greatness of our God because He is not limited to one nation. Through the description of Zion in this psalm, we are reminded that He is the God of all nations. We see that our faith is not just an individual matter; it involves our relationships with people from all backgrounds, and we are one diverse but united body of Christ.

Taste and See

What nations are included in Zion, the city of God (vv. 4–6)?

People from Rahab, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush will be among those who are included in the city of Zion.

God has founded His city, Zion, on a holy mountain, and He loves it more than any other city. However, its citizens are not only the people of Israel. The glorious city of Zion includes those from many different Gentile nations that were once enemies of Israel. Rahab (a nickname for Egypt), Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush are recorded as those who will acknowledge the LORD, and they will all be granted their full citizenship rights. God Himself registers them as those who are born in Zion.