

*GOD'S FACE IS SHINING UPON US**PSALM 67:1-7 // ROMANS 11: 1-2/25-31***MONDAY 8/21/23**

Psalm 67:1-7// 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us 2 so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31 ///1 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

**REFLECTION** The question arises: Is God, a God of rejection, or a God of mercy and forgiveness? First off, God is our creator and is sovereign. Being a sovereign God means He is in control at all times. God did not turn away from His most precious possession. We turned away from Him. We know this because we have a deep fear of God, and sadness. We were made in God's image, and therefore, He remains in our consciousness. Either we run and hide from God, or we run to God. Adam and Eve chose to run and hide from God after they disobeyed God's command. The sin they committed was the sin of pride. They wanted to be like God. God did not abandon Adam and Eve but just the opposite. From the moment we fell away, God began to protect us and redeem us as His people. Gen 3:21 "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." From that moment onward God had a plan of restoring His creation to Himself. This now comes through His eternal Son, Jesus Christ. He died and rose from the dead as the first fruit of new life. No "born anew" member of God's family would willingly turn away from God's love. As members of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ, we have a new nature. That nature is to never reject God again. Today, people are marked by the love of God in them. Thank Him this week and praise His name in a church that offers God's mercy and forgiveness.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, God of all god's, I thank you for being gracious to me and blessing me by making your face shine upon my face. Your ways are the right ways, and you help me to share this. In Jesus Name, Amen**

**TUESDAY 8/22/23**

Psalm 67:1-7// 3 May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31//2 2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel.

**REFLECTION** God's face is shone on us when we display our love for God by obeying Him. God displays proof of His faithfulness to those He loves through His Son Jesus. We obtain the origin of faithfulness from God's sovereign and election. God "foreknew" is not to be understood as foresight but instead, God takes pleasure in selecting people for Himself. Our election is our adoption into God's family and this happens by confirming our faith in Christ. God had anticipated the chosen ones through an inwardly calling to us. This calling is accepting the knowledge of Christ is the Son of God. Gal, 4:9 "But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?" The faithfulness of God does not fail. God invites all people indiscriminately to Himself. He has given to us his Son, who is also faithful to us. Our adoption is a sacred bond by which the children of Abraham came under the protection of God. The prophet Elijah, a long time ago, complained to God about the actions of the Israelites. He cried out complaining the people stopped worshiping God. St Paul now complains about the people turning away from Christ. But the good news for us today is God's grace will always prevail no matter the condition of the world. Christ remains steadfast and secure under the seal of God's promise. No one can ever hide from the providences of God. During

**PRAYER Merciful God I pray you send your Spirit upon your children and bring the people back to you. May the people stand and praise you. May your people call upon your name. In Jesus Name, Amen**

### WEDNESDAY 8/23/23

Psalm 67:1-7// 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31 ///25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

**REFLECTION** God's face will shine upon us when we have humbled ourselves before Him and admit our defects. St Paul arouses our curiosity as to the greatest mystery of our faith. He declares God has now revealed His secret by shining His face upon His Son Jesus Christ. Those who accept Christ as God's Son are now adopted children. St Paul now warns us those who are chosen should never be tconceited. This is a detestable act! St Pauls reprimand is a message we need to hear today. As God's children we ought to be the most humble and gentle people. But, unfortunately, we have a tendency

to be judgmental and condemning. There is a sin which stops us from being humble and gentle. It is the greatest of all sins. We loath this sin, especially when we see it in other people. There is no sin that is more conscious in our own minds. It is the sin of pride. Would you like to know if you are prideful? Simply ask yourself this question: *'How much do I dislike other people when they reject me, or snub me?'* Pride is a competitive force driving us to compete with those we meet. We are constantly striving to show off how much better we are than everyone else. In part, the Israelites turned their backs on God because of national pride. God in His sovereignty, therefore, blinded Israel for a while because they refused the light of Christ. However, the light of the gospel has fallen on the Gentiles. God has set a period of time the Christians will occupy the vacated place of the Jewish people. We do not



know why, but the hardening of the Israelites hearts towards Christ serves God's purpose. So now we all wait for the full number of Gentiles to be taken up by God. Then this age will come to the end.

**PRAYER** Lord Jesus you rule your peoples with equity and wisdom. I prayer every nation upon the earth will come to obey your will. In Jesus Name Amen.

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### THURSDAY 8/24/23

PPsalm 67:1-7// 5 May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31 ///26 Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

**REFLECTION** St Paul now tells us, for a while, the Gentiles (other than Jews) will be invited to come into the presence of God. In this new age of the Messiah the Jewish people seem to be in limbo. They too will once again have a deep obedient faith in God. But for now God seems to have harden their hearts. But one day At the right time God will complete His plan of salvation for the whole Israel. God's redemptive plan is to have the true Jewish people secure as first place, and first-born family of God. St Paul intended here to show us the completion of God's kingdom comes through Christ alone. Gal. 6:14-18 "14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. 16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen." The true children of Abraham will be the people who are included in God's redemptive plan. Let us give thanks to God for shining His face upon us, the Gentiles.

**PRAYER** On this day I praise you Lord God for your redemptive plan and delivering me from evil. Create in me a peace and joy so I my share peace and joy with others. In Jesus Name Amen.

## FRIDAY 8/25/23

Psalm 67:1-7// 6 The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31 ///27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” 28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs. 29 for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

**REFLECTION** God promise (covenant) to Abraham is to be everlasting. The prophet of Isaiah speaks about God’s covenant through the office of the Messiah, by reminding the Jewish people what this covenant will do. They are to expect a Messiah who will cleans them. Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Later in the history of Israel the prophet Jeremiah again expresses God’s promise plan of redemption. Jer. 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." This affirms the coming of Christ who will convert the people who have unyielding hearts. God removes this stumbling block and declares the original promise to Abraham includes a “gratuitous remission of sins.” The worst crime of the Israelites is their unbelief. They have been blinded to Christ for a time by the hand of God. Now, the gospel of Christ is directed also to the Gentiles (other than Jewish people). The Jewish people have been alienated through their rejection of the Messiah (Christ). Yet, by God’s eternal mercy and graciousness the Jewish people are still regarded as descendants of Abraham. These “beloved,” ones are those who God grants “gifts and a calling” tp Him. They will not be forever excluded from the favor of God. On a account of Christ our salvation first came for the Jewish people. But, for now, they continued to reject Jesus and even had Him killed. Yet, God in His mercy, is mindful of His covenant with them. By His grace and divine calling they too will one day reconize Christ.

**PRAYER You, O’God are our creator, of Jew and Gentile. You have given us abundant crops and provide for our every need. May the whole earth shout for joy and praise You! In Jesus Name , Amen**

## SATURDAY 8/26/23

Psalm 67:1-7// 7 May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Romans 11:1-2/25-31 /// 29 for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. 30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience.

**REFLECTION** God shines his face upon us by granting to us the gifts of faith. When He calls to us we are able to hear the most wonderful word. You are forgiven of your sins. The calling of God is all about repentance and returning to have a relationship with God. In other words, He makes us examine ourselves and confront our sins. The real truth about our dark thoughts. When St Paul mentioned “gifts and calling” we are to understand it to mean “gifts,” which are the promises of God. This “calling” is a special “calling” from God who first “adopted” the future generation of Abraham children. This adoption is irreversible, and irrevocable. So let us embrace this calling an act as though our lives depend on it. Rom.13:12-14 12 says, "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh” We bear in our hearts the Spirit of Christ. We have been adopted into the Kingdom because of Christ death. Let us treat ourselves with God’s blessings and act accordingly! This is not according to the outward appearance of our lives but the very core of our souls. Take for example the Jews had fallen from God’s privilege for a while and look how much they have suffered. God stands firm and His love is immovable. For the sake of your soul do not depart as the Jewish people did. Listen to God’s calling of Genesis 17:7. “I will be the God of thy seed,” This “calling,” is not only an external calling, but an internal, calling coming from the Spirit. Rom. 11:5 “So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.”

**PRAYER Heavenly Father you continue to bless me with your wisdom by giving me hope. Thank you Lord Jesus for planting the seed of righteousness in my heart. I praise you and rejoice in your words and deeds. In Jesus Name**

Amen. *PSALM 67:1-7 // ROMANS 11: 1-2/25-31*