



still waters

home church studies

psalm 67

[Worship]

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah 2 that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. 6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. 7 May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

[Think & Pray...]

Consider: Hadn't the nations all been destroyed in Revelation 19-20? But here they are entering the Holy City; in fact bringing their glory into it.

Many Christians think that Jesus is only the savior of individual souls, not the entire world. To them, Jesus was not ushering in a "New Way," or the New Kingdom (Rev. 21.1), but simply one who saves *individuals* from this existence to an otherly place called heaven. Christendom has become a private matter of *personal* spirituality, leaving, uncensured the terrible evils that crush the nations. In fact, consider a Christianity that would willingly employ the means of this "world," cooperatively mimicking those "Powers" to accomplish Jesus' mission.

Jesus' death is not merely an unmasking or exposure of the powers for what they are (Col.2.15), but an effort to transform the powers into what they are meant to be. Redemption is our liberation from the oppression of those powers, being forgiven for our own sin and for complicity with the powers. Our work becomes the engagement of liberating the powers themselves from their bondage to idolatry and our message includes the good news of a "cosmic salvation," a restitution of all things (Acts 3.21), when God will "gather up all things in him [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:10).

[The Scripture]

revelation 21 .10, 22 - 22 .5

10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. 22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there. 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.