

Psalms 106:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

Analysis

This verse is a corporate prayer for restoration, revealing the context of dispersion among the nations. 'Save us, O LORD our God' acknowledges dependence on divine intervention for deliverance. 'Gather us from among the heathen' indicates the people are scattered, likely during or after exile. The purpose of gathering is twofold: 'to give thanks unto thy holy name' and 'to triumph in thy praise.' The word 'triumph' suggests joyful celebration and boasting in God. This prayer recognizes that true worship requires restoration to covenant relationship and community. The phrase 'thy holy name' emphasizes God's set-apart character - He is holy even when His people are not. The ultimate goal of salvation is not merely personal happiness but corporate worship and testimony to God's glory.

Historical Context

This verse strongly suggests a post-exilic context, likely during or after the Babylonian captivity (586-538 BC) when Jews were scattered throughout the ancient Near East. Following the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, Jewish communities existed in Babylon, Egypt, and throughout the Persian Empire. The prayer for gathering echoes prophetic promises in Deuteronomy 30:1-5, Jeremiah 29:14, and Ezekiel 36:24, where God promised to regather dispersed Israel. The return under Ezra and Nehemiah represented a partial fulfillment, though complete restoration remained (and remains) future. This verse would have been particularly meaningful during the Second Temple period as the Jewish

community sought to rebuild their identity while still under foreign domination. The longing for gathering to worship reflects the centralized worship system established in Deuteronomy, where Israel was to worship at the place God chose.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between physical gathering and spiritual restoration in this prayer?
2. How does scattering among the nations serve as both judgment and opportunity for witness to God's name?
3. Why is giving thanks to God's 'holy name' emphasized as the purpose of gathering?
4. In what ways does this corporate prayer challenge individualistic approaches to faith and salvation?
5. How might this longing for gathering and corporate worship inform Christian understanding of the church?

Interlinear Text

הַשִּׁיעַ נֹן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וְקִבְּצֵנוּ	מִן	הַגּוֹיִם
Save	us O LORD	our God	and gather	H4480	us from among the heathen
H3467	H3068	H430	H6908		H1471
לְהַדוֹת	לְשֵׁם	קֹדֶשׁ	לְהִשְׁתַּבֵּחַ	בְּתִהְלֹתֶךָ:	
to give thanks	name	unto thy holy	and to triumph	in thy praise	
H3034	H8034	H6944	H7623	H8416	

