

Romans 15:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

Analysis

And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people (καὶ πάλιν· Αἰνεῖτε, πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, τὸν κύριον, καὶ ἐπαίνεσάτωσαν αὐτὸν πάντες οἱ λαοί, kai palin· Aineite, panta ta ethnē, ton kyrion, kai epainesatōsan auton pantes hoi laoi)—Paul's third quotation, from Psalm 117:1, universalizes the call: panta ta ethnē (all the Gentiles/nations) and pantes hoi laoi (all the peoples)—comprehensive inclusion. The verbs aineite (praise) and epainesatōsan (laud, extol) are worship terms. The entire human family is summoned to worship ton kyrion (the Lord)—in Christian reading, this Kyrios is Jesus (cf. Phil 2:9-11).

Psalm 117 is the Bible's shortest psalm but makes the grandest claim: universal worship of YHWH. What seemed hyperbolic in the psalmist's day Paul sees fulfilled in the gospel's global reach. The church's mission to disciple panta ta ethnē (Matt 28:19) fulfills the psalter's call. Every tribe and tongue praising Christ realizes Scripture's vision.

Historical Context

Psalm 117 was part of the Hallel psalms (113-118) sung at Passover. Jesus likely sang this psalm at the Last Supper (Matt 26:30). Paul's use connects Gentile worship to Israel's liturgical tradition—Gentile believers join the song Israel has always sung, now understanding its full, Christ-centered meaning. This continuity between synagogue and church worship was theologically vital.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Psalm 117's call for universal praise shape your understanding of the Great Commission and global missions?
2. What does it mean for you personally to join 'all peoples' in lauding the Lord —what does your worship contribute to this cosmic chorus?
3. How can your church better reflect the 'all nations, all peoples' inclusiveness that Scripture envisions?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πάλιν Αἴνεῖτε τὸν κύριον πάντες τὰ ἔθνη καὶ

And **again** **Praise** **G3588** **the Lord** **all** **G3588** **Gentiles** **And**

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ἐπαινέσατε αὐτὸν πάντες οἱ λαοί

laud **him** **all** **G3588** **people**

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 117:1 (Resurrection): O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.