

Great Things in Little Packages

Sometimes very special things come in little packages – the gift of an engagement ring is but one example. In the book of Psalms in the Bible there is “the littlest psalm,” Psalm 117. It is the shortest of the 150 psalms and contains only two verses, but it truly can be described as “a great thing in a small package” with incredible richness.

Psalm 117

- ¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
² For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD. (NIV)

First, the psalm plainly tells us about the character of the God of the Bible. It is very easy for us to imagine who we think God is. God’s own book reveals to us who He really is. This “littlest of psalms” tells us that God has a great, universal concern for all the peoples of the earth. The Lord God’s desire is to truly welcome the worship and praises of all different people groups of the world. It is very profound that this portion of Scripture was first given to God’s people called Israel. But these people were to be used as a conduit of blessing for all the nations of the earth. The God who called all nations to worship Him is the same God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). This little psalm clearly tells us that God is a mission-minded God with a heart towards people of all the nations of the earth. God sent His Son, Jesus, into this world as the Saviour of all the nations. So may there be a wideness in our hearts for God’s mission of redemption to the nations. May God forgive us for thinking so small!

Second, this “littlest of psalms” tells us that God’s love is great towards us. Here we must remember that it is an undeserved love, because that is the very nature of grace and mercy. It is not deserved. This rich and full love truly is the grand utterance of the Scriptures, “God is love” (I John 4:8,16). It is visibly seen in that wonderful love of God the Father when Jesus died on the cross. The love of God draws us to Him and is so great that it will cover all my sins and your sins, whatever they are. I pray that you know this love of God the Father through Jesus Christ, His Son.

Then, our “littlest of psalms” ends as it began – with an invitation and call to “praise the Lord.” Who should? It is an invitation to everyone to come to the Father and give Him their lives in His service. Why should we? The reasons are many, but the essential one is this: God’s love to us is full of abundant grace, kindness, and mercy. Why would someone not praise God for such grace and love? His truth and faithfulness are never changing. What a stronghold our God is in a world of instability!

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