

Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud him, all you peoples! For his merciful kindness is great toward us and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! (NKJV)

Praise:

Halal-to be clear (orig. of sound, but usually of color); to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; causatively, to celebrate; also to stultify

Laud:

Shabach-to address in a loud tone, i.e. (specifically) loud; figuratively, to pacify (as if by words)

Gentiles:

Gowy-a foreign nation; hence, a Gentile; also (figuratively) a troop of animals, or a flight of locusts

People:

'ummah-a collection, i.e. community of persons

Merciful kindness:

Checed-kindness; by implication (towards God) piety: rarely (by opposition) reproof, or (subject.) beauty

Great:

Gabar-to be strong; by implication, to prevail, act insolently

Truth:

'emeth-stability, certainty, truth, trustworthiness

In this Psalm, as in so many others, the Psalmist exhorts us to be loud in our praise and then gives us a reason for the exuberance. Here we have two reasons: God merciful kindness is great toward us and his truth endures forever.

Scripture references:

Psalm 22:27

All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

Psalm 72:11

Yes, all kings shall fall down before him; All nations shall serve him.

Psalm 86:9

All nations whom you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

Psalm 13:5

But I have trusted in your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Psalm 31:7

*I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, for you have considered my trouble;
you have known my soul in adversities...*

Psalm 59:16

*But I will sing of your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of your mercy in the morning; for you
have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.*

Psalm 86:13

*For great is your mercy toward me, and you have delivered my soul from the depths of
Sheol.*

Psalm 90:14

Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

Psalm 101:1

I will sing of mercy and justice...

Psalm 103:11

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward those who
fear him...*

Psalm 108:4

For your mercy is great above the heavens, and your truth reaches to the clouds.

Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.

Psalm 71:22

*Also with the lute I will praise you -- and your faithfulness (truth), O my God! To you I
will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.*

Psalm 86:15

*But you, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and
abundant in mercy and truth.*

Psalm 138:2

*I will worship toward your holy temple, and praise your name for your lovingkindness
and your truth; For you have magnified your word above all your name.*