

The Promise of Blessing Toward All Nations and Peoples in Scripture

Compiled by Rick McKinney, 2023 - New Revised Standard Version

In the Sacred Scriptures Hebrew word goyim (or goy and Septuagint as ethnos), is employed more than 500 times, and is often translated as nation or nations or peoples and frequently not as a point of blessing, but many passages do point out God's desired blessing for all peoples, as noted in the following verses.

I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen. 12:3).

The LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him (Gen. 18:17-18)?

I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice (Gen. 22:17-18).

Isaac, reside in this land as an alien, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands; and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring (Gen. 26:3-4).

Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation (Ex. 19:5-6).

You shall be holy to me; for I the LORD am holy, and I have separated you from the other peoples to be mine (Ex. 20:26).

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" (Dt. 4:6).

For this I will extol you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name (2 Sm. 22:50).

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 1 Ch. 4:28

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples (1 Ch. 16:23-24).

It (the Passover) was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile and also by all who had joined them and separated themselves from the pollutions of the nations of the land to seek the Lord, the God of Israel (Ezr. 6:21).

Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples (Ps. 9:11).

For this I will extol you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name (Ps. 18:49).

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him (Ps. 22:27).

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy (Ps. 47:1).

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you (Ps. 67:1-5).

May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun. May all nations be blessed in him; may they pronounce him happy (Ps. 72:17).

All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name (Ps. 86:9).

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength (Ps. 96:7).

The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! (Ps. 99:2-3)

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.
The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens (Ps. 11:3-4)

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever (Ps. 117:1-2).

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it (Is. 2:2)

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths" (Is. 2:3).

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, or the Lord has spoken. (Is. 25:6-8).

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations (Is. 42:1).

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples (Is. 56:6-7).

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations (Is. 61:11).

I am coming to gather all nations and tongues, and they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. From them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud, to Meshech Tubal, and Javan, to the coastlands far away that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory, and they shall declare my glory among the nations (Is. 66:18-19).

At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will (Jer. 3:17).

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed (Dn. 7:14).

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19).