

Praise To The Lord The King Over All The Earth

Psalm 47

Intro. 1) He is called “Lord Most High” (*Yahweh Elyon*), “great King over all the earth,” and “God of Abraham.” From these titles alone in Psalm 47 we see that our God is both transcendent and immanent. He is above us but He is also with us. He is a powerful God but He is also a personal God. He is the God of Creation but He is also the God of the Covenant.

2) Albert Einstein redefined Him saying, “I believe in a God who reveals himself in the lawful harmony of all that exists, but not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and the doings of mankind” (*Time*, 4-16-07, p.47).

3) The Sons of Korah see God in an all-together different light. In the 2nd of a trio (Ps 46-48) of songs of Zion, we are led to celebrate the kingship of the Lord over all things. We are challenged to praise Him with a shout (vs. 1-4) and with a song (vs.5-9). “He sits on His holy throne,” because He has ascended on high having completed once and for all His perfect work of atonement. This Lord Most High, this great King over all the earth is none other than King Jesus!

I. We should shout with praise to God our King. 47:1-4

1) Praise Him with hands and voice. 47:1-2

- First, they are told to “clap” their hands, an invitation extended to “all.”

(cf. Psalm 98:8; Isaiah 55:12).

Second, they are to “shout to God with the voice of triumph” (or victory).

- And why can they clap and shout in such a way? The answer is found in vs. 2 with a 2-fold declaration.

- 1) “For the Lord Most High is awesome.” The covenant name of God (Yahweh, “Lord”) revealed to His people is combined with a majestic title (“Most High”).
- 2) “He is a great King over all the earth.” This explains why He is “Lord Most High.” This God is a king. No, He is a great King and His kingdom extends to the whole earth (v.7).

2) Praise Him for sovereignty and love. 47:3-4

God has a historical track record as again and again He has acted on behalf of His people Israel.

- Indeed as v. 4 proclaims, He chose our inheritance for us. We did not earn it, He gave it. Jacob and his descendants have been graced by God.
- This God is not a tyrant, He is gracious.
This God is not evil, He is good.
This God is not stingy, He is generous.

II. We should sing with praise to God our King. 47:5-9

There is an important praise that dominates the 2nd stanza of Psalm 47, occurring 5 times. It is the phrase “sing praises.” The victory shout of v.1 is now complemented with victorious singing! Two wonderful affirmations are trumpeted concerning our great King.

1) He is properly enthroned. 47:5-8

- Our Lord has conquered (vs. 3-4) and now ascends victoriously. The inhabitants of heaven are in view I believe, and they rejoice as Jehovah ascends to His heavenly palace, having won a great victory. Ephesians 4:8-10 provides a N.T.

fulfillment of Psalm 47 when speaking of the Lord Jesus' victory at the cross and by resurrection.

- (cf. Col 2:15)
- The end of vs. 7 in the *NKJV* says we should “sing praises with understanding.” The *NASV* says “sing praises with a skillful song.” The *ESV* says “sing praises with a psalm.” Kidner notes for us that the Hebrew work is *maskil* whose root meaning contains “the idea of wisdom and skill...[something] which Paul seems to have in mind in 1 Cor. 14:15” when he says, “I will sing with the mind also” (p. 178).
- Thus head and heart come together in genuine praise of our God. (cf. Matt. 22:37).
- “God reigns (He is King and Sovereign) over the nations. God sits on His holy throne.” Van Gemeren wisely notes, “In the Apocalypse, John sees Jesus exalted on the throne. (Rev. 4:9-10; 5:1, 7, 13; 6:16; 7:10; 15; 19:14). He has received the same prerogatives of kingship and authority as the Father...” (p.360).

2) He is greatly exalted.

47:9

Verse 9 carries us into the world of eschatological expectancy, a day in the future.

Here we see an anticipation of Rev. 21:24. God has been true to His word. He has blessed all the nations thru the seed of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) in King Jesus. Thus the “shields”, probably here a synonym for “kings,” of the earth belongs to God.

Conclusion: Our God is the Lord Most High, a great King over all the earth and the God of Abraham who keeps His word! His plan will come to pass. His will, will be

done. Let us join with the sons of Korah and shout and sing: “praise the Lord, the King over all the earth.”