

PRAISE THE ASCENDED KING

Psalm 47

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INTRODUCTION

The relation of this psalm with Psalm 46: likely the same background. There we saw the needlessness of fear; here the necessity of praise.

The use of this psalm by Jews and Christians:

- Jews: New Year celebration (cf. v. 5)
- Christians: Ascension Day of Christ (v. 5)
- Both Jewish and Christian interpreters generally regard the psalm as Messianic.

The psalmist looks forward to a time when all the nations of the earth will submit to Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. At that time all peoples will be His peoples—as Israel has been previously.

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR LIFE TO GOD AND PRAISE HIM—HE IS YOUR LORD AND KING!

I. LET THE NATIONS PRAISE HIM (1-4)

A. What they must do: Clap Your Hands and Shout with Joy—a ringing cry (1)

B. Why they must do this

1. God is awesome (2)
2. God is a Great King over all the Earth (2)
3. He Exalts His people—Israel
 - Subdues under her those who would destroy her—“peoples & nations” (v. 3)
 - Continually chooses the glorious inheritance of His people—beginning in Joshua’s day—the “glory” or “pride: of Jacob (4)

II. LET HIS PEOPLE PRAISE HIM (5-8)

A. God loves “Jacob”—Why love a deceiver and cheat? “Why should he love me so?”

B. God has ascended victoriously—with a shout and trumpet (5).

- Cf. the bringing of the Ark to Jerusalem in David’s time.
- Cf. the triumph over the Assyrian army in Hezekiah’s time.
- Cf. the triumph and exaltation of Christ in His ascension to Heaven when He led “captivity captive.”

C. Sing, sing, sing, sing, sing: He is the **King** of all the Earth (6-7)

D. Sing with Understanding—a Maskil (7).

E. God reigns over the nations from a **Holy Throne** (8).

III. LET HIM REIGN OVER ALL FOREVER (9)

A. The Princes of the Peoples have assembled themselves.

- B. They are not only **with** the “people of the God of Abraham”—Israel—they **are** “the people of the God of Abraham”.
- Israel was appointed as a mediator nation in order to attract the other nations to God.
 - Cf. how NT saints have become descendants of Abraham (Gen. 12:3; Acts 3:25; Gal. 3:8).
 - But this scene reflects more than that—see **Micah 4:1-4**; Zech. 2:11; 14:16.
- C. “The shields of the Earth belong to God”; these are the **kings** as we see in Ps. **84:9**; 89:18.
- D. He is greatly exalted—cf. v. 5—He ascends up [same verb].

CONCLUSION

Yes, the history begins with an amazing incident in the days of Hezekiah where God “descends from His throne to go down to defeat the Assyrian army, but it ends with the Son of God ascending to His heavenly throne as King of Kings and Lord of Lords—**Rev. 19:16**.

In that day all the peoples of the Earth will rejoice and praise Him.

In that day all His people will sing His praises.

He is the King of all the Earth; He reigns over the nations.

He sits on His **holy** throne.

What about you?

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