

“Clapping for Christ Our King” Psalm 47

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

- ¹ Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
- ² For the LORD Most High *is* awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.
- ³ He will subdue the peoples under us,
And the nations under our feet.
- ⁴ He will choose our inheritance for us,
The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- ⁷ For God *is* the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with understanding.
- ⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.
- ⁹ The princes of the people have gathered together,
The people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth *belong* to God;
He is greatly exalted. Psalm 47 (NKJV)

There is sometimes controversy about whether or not it is right, okay or appropriate to clap in church... However, there is no controversy about clapping, shouting, or praising God, even in church! There is no limit on volume either, when we are praising our Lord!

Verse 1.—“O clap your hands,” etc. Such expressions of pious and devout affection as to some may seem indecent and imprudent, yet ought not to be hastily censured and condemned, much less ridiculed; because if they come from an upright heart, God will accept the strength of the affection, and excuse the weakness of the expressions of it.—Matthew Henry.

I. This Psalm is about God's victory in battle –

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! Psalm 47:1

1. *Clapping and shouting are commanded here –*

A. *All peoples, meaning both Jews and Gentiles are commanded to clap, telling us this is a prophetic Psalm.*

B. *What triumph benefits both Jews and Gentiles? Christ's victories over sin and Satan, including Satan's armies –*

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

2. *The shout, the voice of triumph is a loud voice, Christ's voice wakes the dead –*

²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. John 5:25 (NKJV)

A. *Preachers should have such a voice – “The Christian World is in a deep sleep, nothing but a loud Voice can wake them out of it.” George Whitefield*

B. *Christ's sheep definitely hear His Voice, and they follow Jesus, and He and His Father attain the victory for them –*

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.” John 10:27-30 (NKJV)

II. This victory is God's; so the praise focus is on Him –

² For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. Psalm 47:2 (NKJV)

1. *He is the LORD, God's unpronounceable Name ...*

2. *He is Most High – above all other “so called” gods –*

¹¹ **“Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11 (NKJV)**

3. *He is awesome, in the KJV “terrible” –*

² **For the LORD most high is terrible; He is a great King over all the earth. Psalm 47:2 (KJV 1900)**

“not of his children ... but of the wicked also for their punishment; “*terrible*” to the devil, as being stronger than he, casting out the prince of darkness by the finger of God. Luke 11:22; John 12:31. and therefore so soon as an unclean spirit saw Jesus, he cried out, “What have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art Thou come to destroy us?” Mark 1:24; or as other devils, Matt. 8:29, “Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” for the devils in believing tremble. “*Terrible*” to hypocrites, and other impious agents of the devil, as having his fan in his hand to make clean his floor, and to gather his wheat into his garner, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matt. 3:12. Or Christ is high in power, and fearful in justice: high in exalting the good, and terrible in humbling the bad.” —*John Boys*.

4. *He is a great King over all the earth, meaning He controls everything –*

A. *He controls, rules over the smallest, even seemingly chance things –*

³³ **The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD. Proverbs 16:33 (NKJV)**

B. *He controls the sinful acts of ungodly men –*

²⁷ **“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)**

C. *He controls, rules over everything –*

¹¹ **In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)**

- *This is bad news for our enemies –*

- *Good, beneficial news to us –*

³ **He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.** ⁴ **He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.** Psalm 47:3–4 (NKJV)

III. This victory is GREAT, deserving of a multiplicity of PRAISES –

God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. Psalm 47:5-7 (NKJV)

1. *Here is pictured Christ's ascension to Heaven after defeating sin, death and Satan at the cross! Here is a return to Heaven after His victory over sinners at His second coming!*
2. *These are praise-worthy victories! He gets praises as God, and more praises, praises as King, and more praises ... (4) we are to sing praises with our understanding – because we KNOW God and Christ, to KNOW Him is to love Him –*

²³ **Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;** ²⁴ **But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,”** says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** John 17:3 (NKJV)

IV. The victory is the one we've prayed for, Thy Kingdom come –

- ⁸ **God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.**
- ⁹ **The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of**

the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth *belong* to God; He is greatly exalted. Psalm 47:8–9 (NKJV)

1. *Psalm 2 speaks of nations raging*
2. *Acts 4 applies this to rage against Christ*
3. *Such rage continues even today –*

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. John 15:18 (NKJV)

³⁶ As it is written: “*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*” Romans 8:36 (NKJV)

4. *Yet this rage will not, cannot, continue forever –*

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” Psalm 2:4–6(NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

5. *When we pray –*

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

A. We are praying God will rule in our hearts, that we might be His obedient subjects ...

B. We praying for, Christ’s second coming, the defeat of all sin and sinners, and God’s final and full rule! Answered Prayer, for sure!

Arnold Brevick