

**Psalm 47 — “The Absolute Kingship of God”**

God is the unrivaled sovereign over all, ruling all nations and peoples for his own purposes. This position of supremacy should cause all his people to rejoice, offering praise to him who presides over all. This triumphant theme is the subject of this psalm, a dramatic declaration of the kingship of God over all! Everyone and everything are under His rule, whether they acknowledge it or not (Steven Lawson)

★ **What is the grand, overarching, unifying THEME of the Bible?**

*Background to Psalm 47 —*

- Ps 47 is “a hymn of triumph” (JJ Stewart Perowne)
- Ps 47 is a celebration of the kingship of Yahweh, who rules over the whole earth (Gerald Wilson)
- Ps 47 shows that Yahweh is the true King of the world — and he has no credible rivals (William Varner)
- The main point: Yahweh is King over the world!
  - We could divide the psalm by the “*Selah*” at the end of v.4 — but the theme permeates throughout — *God Is The Absolute King Over All!*

Gazing on the central verse in verse 8:

**>> God’s Kingship is**

1. Established = he reigns
2. Exclusive = God
3. Exhaustive = over the nations
4. Emphatic = repeated 2x
5. Ever-Upright = his \*HOLY\* throne
6. Eternal

**THESIS — Ps 47 establishes the absolute sovereignty of God & what it produces.**

**> God’s Absolute Sovereignty will gloriously produce...**

*(1) Joyfulness, (2) Obedience, (3) Assurance, (4) Singing, (5) Perspective*

**I. JOYFULNESS (1)**

“This is a loud and enthusiastic acclaim of God’s sovereignty.” (Allen Ross)

**II. OBEDIENCE (2-3)**

**III. ASSURANCE (4)****IV. SINGING (5-7)**

Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing. (Spurgeon)

**V. PERSPECTIVE (9)**

***A word to clarify the glory & reality of Jesus’ Kingship:***

- ✓ Our Lord Jesus Is the King — he is ruling sovereignly as King.
  - all authority in heaven & on earth is his! (Matthew 28:19-20)
  - He is now seated at the Father’s Right Hand (Hebrews 1.3)
  - He ascended to heaven and is seated at God’s right hand (Ephesians 1.20-22).
- ✓ However: through he *now is* the Sovereign King governing over all things in heaven (1 Pet 3.22) — he will return again *in the future* in great power & glory (Rev 19) to rule and reign over the earth (Rev 20) on the literal Throne of David, headquartered in Jerusalem, reigning over all nations, with righteousness, justice, and equity for 1,000 years. And, of course, his kingdom will then continue eternally into the New Heavens/New Earth forevermore.

***Closing words of great comfort to the Believer derived from God’s Kingship.***

Joseph Alleine, Puritan Pastor, encouraged believers by imagining God the King saying to you, O believer:

- “I will be a Sovereign to you. The LORD is your judge, the Lord is your lawgiver, the Lord is your king. Do not fear unrighteousness of men. My hands shall hold you fast, and you shall surely stand in the judgment and be found at the right hand among my sheep, and hear the King say: “Come you blessed, inherit the Kingdom of my Father”..... My omnipotence will be your guard. I am God almighty, your almighty protector, your almighty benefactor. What if your enemies are many? More are they that are with you, than they who are against you; for I am with you. What if they are mighty, they are not almighty. Your Father is greater than all, who can pluck you out of my hands? I am your rock and your fortress, your deliverer, your strength, the horn of your salvation, and your high tower. You shall never sink, if omnipotence can support you. The gates of hell shall not prevail against you. Your enemies shall find hard work of it. Though your enemies set their nests against the stars and even I will bring them down, says the LORD. For I Am Your Sovereign.”

## BELGIC CONFESSION —

*Written in 1561, compiling and codifying a clear support for the Reformed Faith.*

### **Article 16 — Divine Election**

*We believe that, when the entire offspring of Adam plunged into perdition and ruin by the transgression of the first man,<sup>1</sup> God manifested Himself to be as He is: merciful and just. Merciful, in rescuing and saving from this perdition those whom in His eternal and unchangeable counsel<sup>2</sup> He has elected<sup>3</sup> in Jesus Christ our Lord<sup>4</sup> by His pure goodness, without any consideration of their works.<sup>5</sup> Just, in leaving the others in the fall and perdition into which they have plunged themselves.<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom 3:12 <sup>2</sup> Jn 6:37, 44, 10:29, 17:2, 9, 12, 18:9 <sup>3</sup> 1 Sam 12:22; Ps 65:4; Acts 13:48; Rom 9:16, 11:5; Tit 1:1 <sup>4</sup> Jn 15:16, 19; Rom 8:29; Eph 1:4-5 <sup>5</sup> Mal 1:2-3; Rom 9:11-13; 2 Tim 1:9; Tit 3:4-5 <sup>6</sup> Rom 9:19-22; 1 Pt 2:8

## WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH —

*A reformed confession drawn up in 1646 by the Westminster Assembly (Puritans) compiling a Reformed Confession of Faith.*

### **Chapter 3 — OF GOD’S ETERNAL DECREE**

*3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some people and angels are predestined to everlasting life and others are foreordained to everlasting death.*

*4. These angels and people thus predestined and foreordained are particularly and unchangeably intended, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.*

*5. Before the foundation of the world was laid, God chose in Christ those of mankind who are predestined to life for everlasting glory, according to his eternal and immutable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. He did this out of his mere free grace and love, without any foreseeing of their faith, their good works, their perseverance in either of these, or any other thing in the creature that might act as conditions or causes moving him to it. All of this is to the praise of his glorious grace.*

*8. The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, so that people, giving attention to the will of God revealed in his Word and yielding their obedience to it, may be assured of their eternal selection based on the certainty of their effectual calling. This doctrine should provide matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God, and it should produce humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all who sincerely obey the Gospel.*

**ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD & KING**

All creatures of our God and King  
 Lift up your voice and with us sing  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Thou, burning sun with golden beam  
 Thou, silver moon with softer gleam  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless  
 And worship Him in humbleness  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
 And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood  
 Come and rejoice in His great love  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Christ has defeated every sin  
 Cast all your burdens now on Him  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign  
 Heaven and earth will join to say  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Then who shall fall on bended knee?  
 All creatures of our God and King  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PSALM 47: PSALTER**

*Tune: The Doxology*

O clap your hands, all peoples shout!  
 Let joyful cries to God ring out!  
 The LORD Most High is greatly feared,  
 great King who rules the earth throughout!

He brought the nations 'neath our feet,  
 subdued the peoples under us.  
 He chose for us our heritage,  
 the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with shouts of joy,  
 the LORD amid the trumpet sound.  
 Sing praise, sing praise to God Most High;  
 to God our King let praise abound.

God is the King of all the earth;  
 sing psalms of praise to him alone.  
 God rules the nations from on high;  
 he sits upon his holy throne.

Leaders of nations gather round  
 to serve as sons of Abrah'm's God.  
 To him belong the shields of earth;  
 exalted greatly is the LORD!