

Sing praises

*Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
Psalm 47:6-7*

Reading this psalm might give the impression that we ought to sing praises to God. Five times in two verses we are commanded the same thing. There seems to be not much theology required to obey these exhortations. The preceding and following verses of this short psalm provide reasons to praise Him. And there are plenty of other reasons to praise Him throughout the Bible. We often will hear someone praise the Lord for some good thing He has done. There are many wonderful acts of God throughout history for which He deserves praise. Yet here we can see two important aspects of praise. First, we praise Him for who He is. God is the King of all the earth. But the glorious corollary of this for his people is that He is *our* King. The children of the king, president, or other ruling position of a country would normally be inclined to speak well of their important father. How surpassing of that is the privilege of personally knowing our heavenly Father who is *the* King of all the earth. Second, we sing praises with understanding. It seems that some people sing praise just to sing. They may be enamored with the sound of praise, or the emotion of praise. But that is not praise with understanding. In fact, that can be selfish and hollow. Yet to understand His person, power, glory, and majesty brings a foundation within the soul that swells into the praises commanded here. There is then much theology connected with these exhortations. The more we plunge into the depths of His truth, the more that truth will lift up our hearts and voices to praise Him. And since He inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3), we who praise Him benefit even more. Therefore, let us be the obedient benefactors of these simple and profound words.

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