

Praising God for Who He is **Psalm 47:1-9**

INTRO:

Sometimes I need a glimpse at the incredible greatness of our God. Satan works hard in our lives to shrink our concept of God so we cannot cast our cares on Him because we are not sure He can carry them. To a certain extent this **Psalm** reminds me of Isaiah's command to Judah in **Isaiah 40**. "***Behold your God.***" If we see Him as He is we will praise and glorify Him as we should.

I. Praise God for His Greatness and His Grace (v. 1-4)

II. Praise God for His Victory and His Sovereignty (v. 5-8)

III. Praise God for His Plan and His People (v. 9)

I. Praise God for His Greatness and His Grace (v. 1-4)

Psalm 47:1-4 (NASB95) ***"O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy. For the LORD Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth. He subdues peoples under us And nations under our feet. He chooses our inheritance for us, The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah."***

A. Different commentators place the writing of this **Psalm** at different moments in Israel's history. One common thought is that **Psalm 47** was written after the victory in **2 Chronicles 20**.

1. Let me refresh your memory a little about what took place in **2 Chronicles 20**. Jehoshaphat is the king of Judah. He is a godly king and one day some folks came and told Jehoshaphat that an overwhelming force from the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon banded together to come up against Judah.

2. Upon hearing of this threat, Jehoshaphat called the people together to pray. In his prayer, Jehoshaphat reminded the Jewish people of what God did and of how powerful God was! Only then did he make a request of God for deliverance. And God gave that deliverance. Jahaziel, a prophet, brought a message from God that they would not have to fight the battle. The battle was the LORD'S and He would fight it. So, they went to battle with a choir at the front. When they arrived where this giant force was camped they found them all dead because they had fought each other and killed each other. After spoiling the bodies, they returned to Jerusalem singing praises to God for what He did!

B. Listen to the praise in this psalm.

"Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!"

God alone deserves all of our adoration and praise! Why?

1. **Verse 2** gives us the reason.

“For the LORD Most High is to be feared; He is a great King over all the earth.”

You can probably tell that I do not like the modern translation ***“awesome.”*** The idea here is that God is not someone to be toyed with. He is to be feared and respected. Awe contains fear or it isn't Awe!

2. Some may say, ***“God doesn't want us to be afraid of Him in the New Testament.”*** Really, have you read the book of Hebrews?

Hebrews 12:28-29 ***“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”***

God does not want us to walk around terrified of Him. Yet, He also does not want us to see Him as the cosmic teddy bear! Do not minimize God's awfulness.

C. His greatness makes His grace so marvelous.

v.3-4 ***“He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.”***

1. The Psalmist is looking backward to look forward. He is probably recalling God giving Israel the victory in the conquest of the land. Then He reasons from this conquest God's plan will come to fulfillment in the future.

2. But notice especially this Great God chose them and their future for them! This is grace. The God who needs no one and nothing attached Himself to His people. He also committed Himself to us. He gave us His Son and the Spirit of God Who lives in us as the down payment on our future blessing.

II. Praise God for His Victory and His Sovereignty (v. 5-8)

Psalm 47:5–8 ***“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. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.”***

A. Having finished stanza one, now let us find a further reason to praise and glorify our God in the next verse of the Psalmist's song. First, we praise Him because He gone up after His victory.

“God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.”

1. The fact, He has gone up implies that He first came down to take some task in hand. An example of this is **Isaiah 31:4**;

“For thus the LORD has spoken to me: ‘As a lion roars, and a young lion over his prey . . . so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill.’”

The picture the Psalmist painted was of God returning to His throne in victory.

2. Because God won His victory, we, too, should be praising Him.

“Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!”

We sing songs of praise to Him because He is Elohim our powerful God. We also sing praises to Him because He is our King. He rules over us.

B. “For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.”

Second, we praise Him specifically because He is king and ruler over all the earth and specifically ruler over us. Aren't you glad God is control of all things? If He wasn't, who would be in control? If God did not control all things, He could not control anything. **Romans 8:28** would not be worth the paper it is printed on.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

D. I think of **Habakkuk 2:20**.

“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

When our world is falling apart, we need to take hold of this reality and never let go of it. God, our Father, is in control.

III. Praise God for His Plan and His People (v. 9)

Psalm 47:9 “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.”

A. This concluding verse is somewhat cryptic in its meaning. We can understand it is an affirmation that God will successfully gather all of His people to Himself at the end of the age.

B. There is a reference to three groups of people here. First, the leaders of the people are gathered together (unto the Lord). Then the Jewish people are specifically mentioned, the people of the God of Abraham. Finally, the shields, which may refer to those who protect God's people, are also said to belong to God.

C. Whether this is what the Psalmist meant or not, there is a strain of truth in this that we must not forget. God has an eternal plan and that plan involves His calling out a people for His name.

Hymn #359 *Jesus is Lord of All*