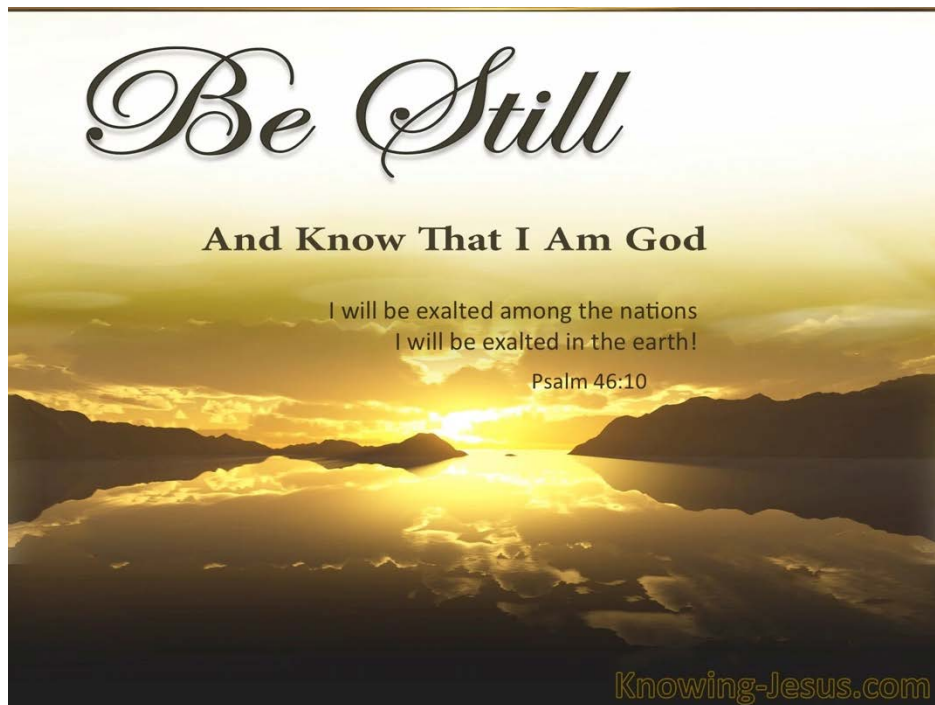


PSALMS OF THE SONS OF KORAH  
ASCENDED AND ENTHRONED  
PSALM 47



T. M. and Susie Moore

*A Scriptorium Study*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

Psalms of the Sons of Korah: Ascended and Enthroned

Psalm 47

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## Introduction to Psalm 47

Psalm 47 sets forth in barest outline the ascension and enthronement of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, the sons of Korah were probably celebrating the ascension and enthronement of Solomon, but they clearly saw in this event a symbol and type of the enthronement of God and His rule over the nations.

The psalmists reach back to the promises made to Abraham and forward to the coming inheritance of the saints as they call us to make a joyful noise of praise and carry out our work of seeking and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Here's a psalm to lead us in joyous celebration into our daily walk with and work for the Lord.

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May the Lord bless your work in this study, that you may grow to know Him better, love Him more, and serve Him more joyfully.

T. M. and Susie Moore

## 1 Whoop It Up!

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.5, 6*

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!

*Sing Psalm 47.5, 6*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with sound of trumpet bold!  
Sing praise to Him, let praise ring out! Let praise through all the world be told!

*Read Psalm 47 (don't forget the superscription!); meditate on verse 1*

*Preparation*

1. How would you describe the mood of this psalm?
2. What is the central focus of Psalm 47?

*Meditation*

What a contrast between this psalm and the previous one! In Psalm 46, the sons of Korah celebrated God as Immanuel – with them, in their midst, a very present Help. Here, in Psalm 47, they are whooping it up at God being ascended into the heavens and gathering all the nations and peoples of the world to Himself. In Psalm 46 He was “in our midst”; in Psalm 47 He is “LORD Most High” (v. 2). What a glorious contrast and mystery!

In theological terms, Psalm 46 celebrates the *immanence* of God, while Psalm 47 extols His *transcendence*. Both are true, and true at all times. God is always with us and He is always high above us. He is always available to help us in our times of need, and He is always reigning over all things, arranging everything for our good (Rom. 8.28).

Believers today don't think much about the ascension of King Jesus to the right hand of God – what He might be doing there as He awaits the day of His return. The sons of Korah give us a glimpse into the reign of Immanuel-LORD-Most-High, so that maybe we, too, will feel like whooping it up a bit more over the fact that Jesus has ascended and is enthroned in glory, and He rules over all the nations of the earth.

Even as He continues to be our very present Help in times of trouble. Amazing!

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

What does it take to make you want to clap your hands?  
What has to happen to make you want to shout for joy?

The dictionary defines the word clap as: to strike the palms of one's hands together repeatedly, typically in order to applaud someone or something.

And shout: to utter a loud call or cry, typically as an expression of a strong emotion.

God, above all, is worthy of our applause. Clap!

And God, in all His glory – the fear of Him and His extraordinary love – should cause the strongest emotion our hearts can ever feel. Shout!

So yes, all people, should clap and shout for the LORD Most High!

He is The King over all the earth.  
He is our King.  
We serve Him.  
We love Him.  
We honor Him.  
We adore Him.

“For our citizenship is in heaven...” (Phil. 3.20).

“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13.14, 15).

“Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’” (Rev. 19.5).

That’s a lot to clap and shout about, so “whoop it up!” for the Home Team!

*Reflection*

1. The emotion in this psalm seems very strong. Why? Do you ever feel this kind of emotion in the Presence of the Lord?
2. Why is the ascension of Jesus so important to our faith?
3. Why is it so important to keep both the immanence and the transcendence of God in mind?

*We sing this psalm in praise to God, that he is with us and wonderfully sustains his Word and Christendom against the gates of hell, against the raging of all the devils, fanatical spirits, the world, flesh, sin and death.* Martin Luther (1483-1546), *Summaries of the Psalms (1531-1533)*

*Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.7-9*

Praise God for His sovereign rule and Kingdom. Ask Him to help you in gathering the nations to Him, to exalt and praise His Name.

*Sing Psalm 47.7-9*

(Truro: [Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns](#))

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.

Princes of peoples gather all to Abraham and to our God.

Exalt the Lord, and on Him call. The earth is His, so praise our God!

## 2 What's All the Shouting About?

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.1, 2*

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
For the LORD Most High *is* awesome;  
*He is* a great King over all the earth.

*Sing Psalm 47.1, 2*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

O clap your hands, you peoples all, with joy to God your songs intone!  
Shout out to Him, and on Him call, He is the mighty, sovereign One!

*Read Psalm 47.1, 2*

*Preparation*

1. What attribute of the king do the psalmists focus on here?
2. What happens because of this?

*Meditation*

Here is another example of a kind of Gresham's Law of language, in which bad or wrong definitions supplant right and true ones.

These days, when someone says, "Awesome!", it's usually with eyes wide open and a big smile on the face, indicating an experience of something extremely pleasant. The abbreviated *OED* explains awesome as "extremely impressive or daunting; inspiring awe". These days we seem to have lost the "daunting" aspect of awesomeness, which the *OED* defines as "seemingly difficult to deal with in prospect; intimidating".

God is certainly that. But even "awesome" doesn't quite get at the reason for all the shouting in these verses. The Hebrew word, אָרָא, *norah*, is from the verb meaning "to fear." In this form it means "to be feared." God is to be feared. He is the LORD Most High. No one and nothing is larger or greater than God, more beyond, more powerful, or more capable of destroying their foes, than this God.

This fearsome God rules the earth, *all* the earth. All the time. In every place. In full control.

Which means that a good bit of the earth is in manifest and hopeless rebellion against a King they have no hope of defeating, and Who will one day leave His eternal throne to come and finally set matters on earth to what they should be, reflecting His righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit in all things.

For now, He rules and is fearsome; and those who know Him clap their hands with enthusiastic approval and shout with fear and joy.

The LORD Most High is awesome, indeed, and fearsome and sovereign, incomparable in His grace, unmatched in His power, and irresistible in His might.

Shout it!

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

What is all the shouting about?

Let's look and see what other Bible characters have to say about this awesome God:

Daniel – “And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments...’” (Dan. 9.4).

Nehemiah – “And I said: ‘I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments...’” (Neh. 1.5).

Moses – “You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, *is* among you” (Deut. 7.21).

David – “By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth...” (Ps. 65.5). “O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places” (Ps. 68.35).

Asaph – “He is awesome to the kings of the earth” (Ps. 76.12).

Daniel's and Nehemiah's prayers mirrored one another in their observation that God is faithful to His covenant, that He in His mighty greatness is merciful; and that God is pleased with those who keep His commandments.

Moses encouraged us to not fear those around us because our awesome and great God is among us and will fight for us.

David is awed by God's righteousness and salvation which leads us to have confidence in God.

David who wrote that “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Ps. 19.1) said here that God is more awesome than any of His majestic creation.

And Asaph wrote that God is awesome to the kings of the earth. God is more powerful than any human power on earth, and somewhere in their heart of hearts they know that to be true.

All this shouting is about our Awesome God. We would do well to obey Him. Then shout!

#### *Reflection*

1. Why is the awesome fearsomeness of God something worth shouting about?
2. Why do you suppose we as believers don't shout His awesomeness any more than we do?
3. How does the awesome fearsomeness of God lead to obedience to and love for Him?

*The God with whom we have to do, is a God of awful majesty. The universal and absolute sovereignty of a holy God would be too terrible for us even to think of, were it not exercised by his Son from a mercy-seat; but now it is only terrible to the workers of iniquity.* Matthew Henry (1662-1714), *Commentary on Psalm 47.1-4*

#### *Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.5, 6*

Pray that God will send a worldwide revival to His Church, leading to a worldwide awakening of the lost to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

#### *Sing Psalm 47.5, 6*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns!\*](#))

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with sound of trumpet bold!

*Ascended and Enthroned: Psalm 47*

Sing praise to Him, let praise ring out! Let praise through all the world be told!



### 3 From Enemies to Heirs

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.2-4*

For the LORD Most High *is* awesome;  
*He is* a great King over all the earth.  
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.

*Sing Psalm 47.2-4*

(Truro: [\*Shout for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

High is the Lord, O, fear His Name! He rules, a King o'er all the earth.  
Nations and peoples He has tamed, the heritage of His holy worth.

*Read Psalm 47.3, 4*

*Preparation*

1. What does God promise to do with us?
2. What does He promise to give us?

*Meditation*

All who believe in Jesus have two things in common. First, we were at one time the enemies of God (Rom. 5.10). But then He subdued us by His love. Now, second, we have received an inheritance from Him, and it is the most excellent inheritance we could ever want.

From enemies to heirs, all by the electing and saving grace of God (v. 4).

Note how the grace of God works to accomplish this. First, He puts us under His feet – well, under the feet, that is, the rule, of Jesus our King (Ps. 110.1, 2). He does this by using His people as “volunteers” to go out and subdue the enemies of the Lord by the power of His Word and Spirit, the power of the Gospel (Ps. 110.3). Here in our psalm, God promises to subdue all peoples and nations to us as we go in obedience with His Word, just as He subdued us through the witness of His faithful volunteers.

And He has chosen an excellent inheritance for us – Himself (Ps. 16.5). That word, *excellent* (Hebrew, גִּבּוֹר, *ga'on*), is rich with meaning and significance. It indicates exaltation, majesty, magnificence, power, beauty – in short, excellence in all things. And what is the “excellence” God has chosen for His people to inherit? Himself.

But unlike most inheritances, this is one we can begin to enjoy now, if only as a foretaste of the full inheritance we will receive when we see Him face to face (Ps. 17.15; 1 Jn. 3.1-3). We have the Holy Spirit in us as a down payment on the inheritance to come (Eph. 1.13, 14). The more we enjoy our inheritance now, the more we want to share it with others, even with those who, like we once were, are enemies of the Lord today.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

“He will choose our inheritance...” (Ps. 47.4).

In much the same way that we choose a gift to give to a loved one, God chooses our gift for us.

We usually give tangible gifts, but His toward us is without measure.  
His gift to us is Himself and His love for us (Jn. 3.16).  
His gift is life (Jn. 10.10).  
His gift is a present and a future gift (Jer. 29.11).

Not unlike the inheritance that He planned for the Levites is His plan for us: “You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I *am* your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel” (Num. 18.20).

The prosperity gospel promoted today is not what our inheritance is about. It is grandiose in spirit, not in earthly goods. As Martin Luther wrote in *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*: “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.”

Asaph, the psalmist, also spoke of this glorious gift: “...God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Ps. 73.26).

And another Psalm speaks of the thanks due for this gift: “*You* are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words” (Ps. 119.57).

Let us say with Peter: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet. 1.3-5).

This is indeed “the most excellent inheritance we could ever want.”

#### *Reflection*

1. What does it mean to you to know that God Himself is your inheritance?
2. In what sense is this a “now” but “not yet” inheritance? Of what does the “now” consist? And the “not yet”?
3. Why should knowing that God is our inheritance move us to want to tell others?

*Apply this spiritually; the Lord himself has undertaken to be the inheritance of his people. It shows the faith and submission of the saints. This is the language of every gracious soul: The Lord shall choose my inheritance for me; he knows what is good for me better than I do. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Psalm 47.4*

#### *Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.7-9*

Pray that God’s Kingdom and rule will come on earth as it is in heaven, and that whole nations and peoples will be drawn to Him through Jesus.

#### *Sing Psalm 47.7-9*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.

Princes of peoples gather all to Abraham and to our God.  
Exalt the Lord, and on Him call – the earth is His, so praise our God!

## 4 The King Enthroned

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.5, 6*

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!

*Sing Psalm 47.5, 6*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with sound of trumpet bold!  
Sing praise to Him, let praise ring out! Let praise through all the world be told!

*Read Psalm 47.5-7*

*Preparation*

1. What is celebrated in these verses?
2. How great is the scope of God's reign?

*Meditation*

This may have been a coronation psalm, used at the time of Solomon's ascension to the throne of Israel. However, it's larger intent could hardly be clearer. Solomon as king over Israel was a type of God, Who is King over Israel and all the earth (v. 7).

The image of God ascending with a shout also points forward to the ascension of Jesus. You can see more details of this in Daniel 7.13, 14 and Psalm 110.1, 2. Jesus ascended to His rightful throne, from which He upholds the universe and everything in it (Heb. 1.3) and is advancing His rule on earth as it is in heaven. He is worthy of all praise and honor; and the more we understand about His ascension and reign at the Father's right hand, the more we will praise Him.

God, LORD, King: This is how we must think of Jesus. Let us devote ourselves with shouts and rejoicing to serve Him and seek His Kingdom, day by day.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

That's a lot of noise!  
Shouting and trumpets and singing of praises.  
And all this noise is because God is the King of all the earth!

Can you hear it?

It's louder than the calls for "Encore, Encore".  
It's louder than a stadium full of exultant fans.  
And it's louder than the mightiest thunder.

And after all this earthly noise and praise, we will experience the ultimate hubbub:

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4.16, 17).

The King Enthroned. Let's shout about it.

*Ascended and Enthroned: Psalm 47*

As Benjamin Beddome penned in his hymn *Shout, For the Blessed Jesus Reigns*:

“Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb, from all below and all above!  
In lofty songs exalt His name, in songs as lasting as His love.”

*Reflection*

1. Why is it important that we understand what Jesus is *doing* at the Lord’s right hand?
2. How should what *He* is doing inform or guide what *we* do every day?
3. What does it mean to set your mind on the vision of Christ exalted at the Father’s right hand (Col. 3.1-3)? How should you expect this to help you in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*He ascended with a shout of jubilation, since he sought heaven as the disciples rejoiced in the glory of his being lifted up. He ascended with the sound of the trumpet, since he went up to the throne of his heavenly kingdom as the angels heralded his return to judge the living and the dead. The Venerable Bede (672-735), Homilies on the Gospels 2.15*

*Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.7-9*

Pray for a revival of God’s Church and renewal of our witness, and that a great awakening to faith may occur throughout the nations of the world.

*Sing Psalm 47.7-9*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.

Princes of peoples gather all to Abraham and to our God.  
Exalt the Lord, and on Him call – the earth is His, so praise our God!

## 5 Our God Reigns!

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.7, 8*

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

*Sing Psalm 47.7, 8*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.

*Read Psalm 47.1-8*

*Preparation*

1. How do you see our exalted God and King in these verses? How does He appear to you?
2. What is His relationship to the nations of the world?

*Meditation*

We can draw from this and previous psalms by the sons of Korah to help flesh out the picture glimpsed here.

Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God (Ps. 47.5). His throne is a glorious cacophony of shouting, clapping, and singing to celebrate His triumph and reign (Ps. 47.1). He is the fairest of all men; every word He speaks or command He gives is all of grace (Ps. 45.2). He refreshes and sustains His people with an unending stream of gladness (Ps. 46.4). He holds a scepter that declares the purpose of His rule: Uprightness! (Ps. 45.6). He goes forth from that throne by His Spirit and Church to advance His rule on earth as it is in heaven (Ps. 45.3, 4; Rev. 6.1, 2; Matt. 6.10). He intervenes in the activities and plans of nations to restrain their wickedness and further His peace (Ps. 46.8, 9). And everywhere among the nations, He works to ensure that His Name is exalted in all the earth (Ps. 46.10).

His throne is holy, thus symbolizing the character of His realm and of all who are called into it (1 Pet. 2.9, 10). He rules *from* holiness *by* holiness and *unto* holiness; and we can know that we are properly in submission to His rule as holiness (righteousness) increases in us unto peace and joy (Rom. 14.17, 18).

Our God reigns! Jesus is an active King. He acts through His Word, His Spirit, and His Church. Set your mind on Christ, exalted in glory (Ps. 16.8; Col. 3.1-3), then live for Him in holiness.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

“For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with understanding” (Ps. 47.7).

Do we really understand or grasp that the God we serve is King of all the earth?  
Do we understand His power? The power to give life and to take it away? (Matt. 10.28)  
Do we comprehend His creation? Everything that we see on the earth and the galaxies far away? (Gen. 1.1)  
Do we see that everything holds together by a word from Him? (Heb. 1.3)  
Do we get it that each breath that we take is a gift from Him? (Acts 17.25)

Unless we strive to understand God and all His attributes and majesty and glory and power, we will never be able to praise Him properly. Ever.

And how will we ever begin to understand?

In His Word. It is there that we search out knowledge of Him.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Prov. 3.5, 6).

“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good” (Prov. 19.8).

“Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things” (2 Tim. 2.7).

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom” (Jms. 3.13).

God promises to give us understanding and wisdom. He wants us to be able to praise Him with understanding. Real, Spirit-filled, open-minded, and authentic understanding.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (Jms. 1.5).

Humanly speaking, we all like to be understood. We like to be known. It makes life more real and abundant. And if someone praises us for something but doesn't know us or even understand why we did the thing we are being praised for; well, it lacks meaning and substance. Meh.

So also, our Royal King, Omnipotent Creator, King of kings and Lord of lords, wants praise with our full understanding. The more we understand Him, the more we will delight in Him, and the more praise will flow naturally from us. And if we truly understand that our God reigns now and eternally, we will submit to His leadership and follow Him obediently.

With understanding!

#### *Reflection*

1. How should you practice setting the Lord always before you (Ps. 16.8)?
2. What can keep you from setting your mind with understanding on the things that are above (Col. 3.1-3)? How can you work through these obstacles?
3. Why is holiness such an important aspect of living in submission to King Jesus?

*God, in stretching forth his hand to subdue men, and bring them to submit to his authority, evidently shows that, from his heavenly throne, he reigns over men.* John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on Psalm 47.8*

#### *Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.1-4*

Rejoice in and praise the Lord for His exalted power, beauty, greatness, and love. Immerse yourself in these as you prepare to seek His Kingdom and righteousness in the day ahead (Matt. 6.33).

#### *Sing Psalm 47.1-4*

(Truro: *Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*)

O clap your hands, you peoples all, with joy to God your songs intone!  
Shout out to Him, and on Him call, He is the mighty, sovereign One!

High is the Lord, O, fear His Name! He rules, a King o'er all the earth.  
Nations and peoples He has tamed, the heritage of His holy worth.

## 6 Glorious Kingdom

### *Opening Prayer: 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.

### *Sing Psalm 47.9*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

Princes of peoples gather all to Abraham and to our God.  
Exalt the Lord, and on Him call – the earth is His, so praise our God!

### *Read Psalm 47.9*

### *Preparation*

1. Who is gathered around the throne of our Lord?
2. What does this gathering indicate?

### *Meditation*

The mention of Abraham points us back to the covenant God made with him. In Genesis 12.1-3, God promised that all the families of the earth would be blessed in Abraham's seed. In Genesis 17.6, 7 God promised to bring whole nations into His covenant and Kingdom. Paul explained that this would only be done through Abraham's primary offspring, our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 3.15, 16). And it is Jesus Who sits enthroned here, overseeing all the nations of the world and receiving their obedience and praise.

The enthronement of Solomon symbolized the rule of God over His people and all nations. God's rule is not limited to His people, whether Israel of the Old Testament or the Church of the New. He rules all nations. All their power ("shields") belongs to Him. He turns the hearts of their rulers to do His bidding (Prov. 21.1). He is exalted over them all, and we, as we rest in Him and contemplate His greatness, can know His power at work to protect and bless us, just as He promised Abraham, our forefather (Rom. 4.13-22).

The promises of God cannot fail, because the Son of God, in Whom all those promises consist (2 Cor. 1.20), is enthroned over the nations. "He rules the world with truth and grace" that His Kingdom might come and His will be done on earth as in heaven (Matt. 6.10).

### *Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

The Living Bible gives us a rousing summary of this passage:  
"The Gentile rulers of the world have joined with us in praising Him  
—praising the God of Abraham—  
for the battle shields of all the armies of the world are His trophies.  
He is highly honored everywhere" (Ps. 47.9 TLB).

We serve in this glorious and victorious Kingdom, and as His servants, we are to seek this Kingdom first in every area of our lives (Matt. 6.33).

And we are to make sure that His will is done on earth, just like it is done in heaven (Matt. 6.10).

This Kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations (Ps. 22.28).

This Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and His dominion endures throughout all generations (Ps. 145.13).  
This Kingdom is not about eating and drinking (earthly things), but it is about the heavenly qualities of

righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14.17).

Finally, a word of warning and encouragement to us who are the members of this Kingdom: “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” (Heb. 12.,28, 29).

Our God and King is highly honored.

Let us praise Him with thanks and understanding (Ps. 47.7).

*Reflection*

1. Why is the Kingdom of God good news for the world?
2. What is your role in seeing the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?
3. God has promised to bless the nations through His Kingdom people. What does this mean for you in your Personal Mission Field?

*The promises to the patriarch Abraham, he is saying, took effect. Now the Lord of all promised to bless all the nations in his progeny. Accordingly, both these nations and their rulers abandoned their ancestral gods and are assembled with the God of Abraham, and they call this God theirs. Theodoret of Cyr (393-466), *Commentary on the Psalms* 47.5*

*Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.5-8*

Pray for God’s people to rest in Him and to seek Him for revival, renewal, and awakening in our day.

*Sing Psalm 47.5-8*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with sound of trumpet bold!  
Sing praise to Him, let praise ring out! Let praise through all the world be told!

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.



## 7 Vantage Points

*Opening Prayer: Psalm 47.1-4*

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
For the LORD Most High is awesome;  
*He is a great King over all the earth.*  
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*

*Sing Psalm 47.1-4*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

O clap your hands, you peoples all, with joy to God your songs intone!  
Shout out to Him, and on Him call, He is the mighty, sovereign One!

High is the Lord, O, fear His Name! He rules, a King o'er all the earth.  
Nations and peoples He has tamed, the heritage of His holy worth.

*Read Psalm 47; meditate on Psalm 47.1-4*

*Preparation*

1. How do we know this psalm is about Christ, exalted in glory?
2. How does this psalm instruct us to respond to the ascension and enthronement of the Lord?

*Meditation*

In Psalm 47 we are led to look up to our God and King, exalted in glory and surrounded with praise. (vv. 1-4) The psalmists also direct us to look back to the promises of God, made to Abraham and fulfilled by our exalted King (v. 9). The psalm points us forward to our inheritance (v. 4), which is God Himself, seeing Jesus as He is in glory, and being made like Him (1 Jn. 3.1-3). And, as we look up, back, and ahead, following the Word of God, we see how we must live in the present, praising the Lord (v. 6) and seeking to advance His Kingdom (v. 3).

This is the Christian's vantage point on life and time.

As believers, we are not trapped in our sinful past. We are not slaves to some fantasy future of our own construction. Nor is our vision of life confined to a merely "this world" frame of reference.

We set our minds on Christ, exalted in glory (Col. 3.1-3), remembering as we do the precious and very great promises God has made and fulfilled in Jesus (2 Pet. 1.4; 2 Cor. 1.20). At the same time, we look ahead to the coming of Jesus and the new heavens and new earth, the "city to come" where righteousness dwells and sin is no more (Heb. 11.1, 13-16; Rev. 21, 22). With those powerful foci guiding us, we walk by faith and redeem the time of our lives so that we do everything for the glory of God and work to make all the nations disciples (2 Cor. 5.7; Eph. 5.15-17; 1 Cor. 10.31; Matt. 28.18-20).

Each day can be something to shout about when we live from this vantage point.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

The Christian's vantage point is of God, our King, exalted in glory and victorious over every foe.

God has a vantage point too: “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Prov. 15.3). “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account” (Heb. 4.13).

Here is where the fear and love of God walk together in our lives.

We fear Him because He is awesome and powerful and the ruler over all things; and He has the power to choose where we spend eternity (Matt. 10.28).

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4.19; Jn. 3.16).

And because these things are true, we want to praise Him with understanding (Ps. 47.7).

The psalmist Asaph wrote about people who mistakenly thought they belonged to God and were praising Him properly, but in reality, lacked a clear understanding of Who God is:

“They do not know, nor do they understand;  
they walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are unstable” (Ps. 82.5).

If we truly understand *God’s* vantage point, then we will more fervently search out *our* vantage point with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12.28, 29).

What was true in the Old Testament is still true today. Joshua told those in his care: “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the laws which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Josh. 22.5).

“For the LORD Most High is awesome;  
He is a great King over all the earth” (Ps. 47.2).

#### *Reflection*

1. What do we mean by the Christian’s “vantage point”? Why is it important that we learn to live from this vantage point?
2. How would you explain *God’s* vantage point on time and life? Why do we need to be mindful of this?
3. How do the fear of God and love for God work together in living from our Christian vantage point?

*Our joy and our victory over all our enemies, which Christ has purchased and brings to all believers in every nation, are the matter of Christ’s praise and declare that he is God, who, having in his humanity suffered, and wrestled against sin, Satan, death, hell and the curse of the law, did, by the power of his divinity, prevail before he brought joy to the Gentiles. . . . His triumph presupposes his victory, and his victory presupposes his battle before he overcame, and the commanding of the Gentiles “to clap their hands and shout,” and to shout “with the voice of triumph,” presuppose their interest in the victory, for while they are bidden to shout to God the triumphant, who, in this entire psalm, is the Redeemer, Christ. David Dickson (1583-1663), Commentary on the Psalms. 3*

#### *Closing Prayer: Psalm 47.5-9*

Take some time in silent contemplation to envision Jesus, exalted in glory, and all the glory and rejoicing

*Ascended and Enthroned: Psalm 47*

surrounding Him in His heavenly court. Rejoice, give thanks, and praise the Lord that He has conveyed you into His Kingdom for His glory.

*Sing Psalm 47.5-9*

(Truro: [\*Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns\*](#))

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with sound of trumpet bold!  
Sing praise to Him, let praise ring out! Let praise through all the world be told!

God is the King of all the earth, sing praise to Him with glorious psalms!  
He rules the nations by His worth, and on His throne receives their alms.

Princes of peoples gather all to Abraham and to our God.  
Exalt the Lord, and on Him call – the earth is His, so praise our God!

*Questions for Reflection or Discussion*

1. How do we know this psalm is about the exaltation and reign of King Jesus? What are the implications of this for us?
2. Why is it important for Christians to learn to “look up” (Ps. 16.8; Col. 3.1-3)? How should you practice this discipline?
3. What does it mean to say that God is our inheritance? What are the implications of this for now and for the future?
4. What does the exaltation and enthronement of Jesus require of us?
5. What’s the most important lesson you have learned from our study of Psalm 47? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*For prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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Thank you.