

Psalm 47

- Psalm 47 is a celebratory Psalm, giving thanks unto the Lord, praising Him.

V: 1 We're moving from being still:

Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God..” now to clapping and rejoicing.

- Jewish worship then, and today is enthusiastic!
- Clapping the hands is a form of praise, is a form of approval - shouting out to God, sounding out our approval and amazement.
- Shouting out the voice of triumph, celebrating the victory He has given us.
- Joshua led the armies of Israel out to battle against Jericho, they marched around the city 6 times silently, then on the 7th time around:

Joshua 6:20 “So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat...”

- He has given us the victory as well, over sin and death.

V: 2 “For the Lord most high is “terrible.” “Terrible” is an old english word the meaning of which has changed over the years, a more modern meaning would be “awesome” as in “greatly to be feared.”

- We're told to clap our hands, with joy, with glee, and to shout unto God with voice of victory and triumph. Why? (V: 2b)

“He is a great King over all the earth:”

V: 3-6 As the king over all the earth He will... subdue people and nations, not just under Himself, but under our feet as well. We are partakers in His victory. He is giving us the victory.

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 8:37 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

“He shall choose our inheritance for us...” - as much as this speaks as it says to the excellency of Jacob - meaning the Jews, there is application for us as well.

1 Peter 1:3-4 *“³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”*

- The inheritance He’s speaking of is Himself, He is our inheritance!
- ⁵God has gone up with a shout and the sound of a trumpet; this is pretty much how He’s coming back - looking to His second coming, His soon return!
- ⁶⁻⁷Sing praises (5x’s) - what do you suppose He means?

V: 7 He is King of all the earth!

- The Lord God omnipotent reigns! He is all powerful, all knowing, and fully in command.
- We are to sing praises to Him with understanding, knowingly, intelligently, meaningfully as opposed to mindlessly, or on “auto pilot.”

Matthew 6:7 *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”*

- It’s easy at times to know the lyrics of a song and to be singing that song while at the same time thinking about lunch, or what you want to do later in the day. We need to reign our thoughts in and to focus on the Lord and worship Him intelligently, in the Spirit.

John 4:24 *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.”*

[Jesus challenged the religious leaders for their hypocrisy, even in worship:](#)

Mark 7:6-9 *“... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.” ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”*

V: 8-9 God is on the throne! He truly reigns over all things, no one, not even the worst of sinners, those who shake their fists at God, none are completely independent of God, all of us need Him, He holds their breath and heartbeat in His hand.

- The shields, the protections, or lack thereof are in His hands.

Psalm 48

- **Background:** The background to this Psalm, which helps us to understand it comes to us through 2 Chronicles chapter 20.
- (Map) During the reign of King Jehoshaphat Judah was invaded by the Moabites, the Ammonites, and the Seir-ites. (Mt. Seir) They came from the area of the Dead Sea, the southern portion of the nation and encamped in the area of En Gedi.
- Keep your finger in Psalm 48, and turn to 2 Chronicles 20, lets look at Jehoshaphat's prayer:

2 Chronicles 20:3-6 (turn to / read)

- In other words, Lord you are God, you reign over all, no one can stand against you.

2 Chronicles 20:7-8 Reciting their history, pointing to God's faithfulness to them in the past as in indicator of his present and future faithfulness.

2 Chronicles 20:9 He's standing on God's promise; when Solomon built the Temple, it was dedicated with this prayer.

- So now there is this national crisis, the people gathered at the Temple with their families, the invasion is eminent, and they are calling on God to help them.
- They're praying Solomon's prayer. Remembering God's response to Solomon's prayer:

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If My people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

- So that pretty much were they are:

2 Chronicles 20:10-12 Jehoshaphat is asking for God to help, he's acknowledging the greatness of God and the power of God - pointing to their

history. God you brought us into this land, you kept us from going against these very peoples that are now attacking us.

- We're no match for them, will you not protect us, will you not judge them?

2 Chronicles 20:13-15 As they are all gathered, the Spirit comes upon Jahaziel who tells Jehoshaphat and all the people not to be afraid because the battle isn't theirs, it's the Lords.

- Don't you love it when the battle belongs to the Lord!

2 Chronicles 20:16 The Lord then begins to tell them what to do, their part:

- Go down against them, they're coming up by the cliff of Ziz.
- ([Map](#)) They were coming up from En Gedi through the valley that leads past Tekoa and what is presently the Herodian.

2 Chronicles 20:17-20a From Tekoa, or better yet from the Herodian you can see Jerusalem, Tekoa, and a glimpse of the Dead Sea through the valley through which the invading army would pass.

2 Chronicles 20:20 God has given them this promise, now Jehoshaphat is encouraging them to just believe in the Lord; believe the Word of the Lord

²⁰Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."

2 Chronicles 20:21 They go out like the army in Joshua's day with the worship team leading the charge, put the choir out front.

2 Chronicles 22-24 When the children of Israel got there, it was just in time to see that their enemies had wiped each other out, God had fought the battle for them.

- Basically, they arrived in time to take the spoil - that's a lot of back ground info, but there it is.

[One more pertinent piece of background info:](#)

1 Kings 22:48 "Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-Geber."

- After the defeat of armies of Moab, Ammon, and Seir God blessed Judah and King Jehoshaphat who then began to seek to acquire more gold. The ships built for this purpose were destroyed in a storm, as it would appear that God said "no." Which will be referenced in our Psalm.

V: 1 Great is the Lord! God has destroyed the enemy, they are praising Him there in the city of their God (Jerusalem) in the mountain (Zion / Moriah) of His holiness, where His Temple, His house stands.

V: 2 The city of Jerusalem is beautifully situated.

- Besides the views, the city is located in a very strategic location. Surrounded on three sides, the South, the East, and the West by valleys, which make it very defensible, very difficult to attack.
- The only way to attack them effectively was from the North - which is where the Temple stood, the city was essentially guarded by God.

V: 3-4 “Her” referring to Jerusalem - a refuge.

- The kings were assembled - meaning the kings of Ammon, Moab, and Mt. Seir, they were on their way.

V: 5 They saw it, they got close enough to see the city of Jerusalem - and that’s when it all fell apart for them.

V: 6-7 Switching gears to describing the disaster with the ships headed to obtain the gold of Ophir.

- Destroyed by an East wind.

V: 8-13 As we have heard of old, so have we seen it done in our sight, in the city of the Lord of hosts.

- God will establish His city forever.
- ⁹We have thought, we have considered, meditated in thy loving kindness.

Psalm 63:3 “Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee.”

- When David considered the loving kindness of his Lord, he realized that it was better than life itself!
- ¹⁰According to your name, according to your glory, and for your glory may you be praised even to the ends of the earth.
- All of Judea & Israel rejoice at the works of our God

V: 14 A statement of commitment, He will be our God even unto death.

- A tremendous vow, sadly though it wasn't kept. Eventually Judah turned to idolatry, but Jehoshaphat was a good king who made a good confession.
- The Apostle Peter made a similar vow, "though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I ever be offended." - It wasn't too long after this that Peter denied Jesus 3 times.
- But after Peter was baptized in the Holy Spirit, it was a different story.