

Psalm 47:1–9 — The King of All the Earth

Introduction:

Psalm 47 is a joyful, triumphant psalm celebrating the sovereign reign of God as King—not only over Israel but over *all* the earth. Historically, it has been associated with the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), read seven times before the blowing of the trumpet. Yet prophetically, it points beyond annual celebration toward the dawning of the Messianic Kingdom—the future reign of Christ when all nations will recognize His rule. It is a psalm for a new beginning—*not just a new year, but a new age*.

Verses 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.”*

This is an international call to praise—“*all you peoples*.” Worship is not reserved for Israel alone; the whole earth is invited to celebrate the reign of God. The gestures—clapping hands, shouting triumphantly—speak of exuberant joy, not subdued religion. Why? Because the Lord Most High is not a regional deity. He is the sovereign *King over all the earth*.

Application:

Worship isn't merely a private act; it is a public, visible expression of God's greatness. Don't be ashamed to rejoice in Him. Let your praise reflect the majesty of the One you serve. And remember: you are not alone in this worship. One day, *every nation, tribe, and tongue* will join in.

Verses 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”*

This anticipates the time when all opposition to God's rule will be overthrown. The language reflects not imperialism, but divine order—a righteous reign where justice prevails. “He will choose our inheritance” points to God's sovereign provision. The phrase “the excellence of Jacob” refers to the unique privilege of God's people, not based on merit but on His covenant love.

Application:

Let God choose your inheritance. He knows better than you what is best for your life, your future, and your eternal reward. Rest in His wisdom and delight in the fact that your place in His plan is not earned—it's given in love.

Verse 5

*“God has gone up with a shout,
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.”*

This verse echoes the imagery of divine procession and coronation. It may also reflect the Ascension of Christ (cf. Acts 1:9–11), as well as the Second Coming (cf. 1 Thess. 4:16), when the Lord returns in glory with the *sound of a trumpet*.

Application:

We live between two trumpet blasts—Christ’s ascension and His return. The first secured our salvation; the second will bring its final manifestation. Let that give you confidence today. Our King is not absent—He is ascended and returning.

Verses 6–7

*“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.”*

Five times the psalm calls us to *sing praises*. This is no ritual—it’s a heartfelt response to the reign of God. But note the command to sing “with understanding.” Worship is not mindless emotion. It is intelligent adoration of the One who reigns in truth and righteousness.

Application:

Worship should engage both the heart and the mind. Don’t just go through the motions—*know* whom you worship and *why*. Learn His character, His works, His promises. The more you understand Him, the more your praise will overflow with depth and joy.

Verse 8

*“God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.”*

Though the nations often reject God’s authority now, this verse looks to the day when every government will be brought under Christ’s lordship. The word “sits” speaks of stability and authority—He is not pacing, panicking, or campaigning. He reigns from a holy throne, and His rule is righteous and secure.

Application:

Don’t be discouraged by the chaos of earthly politics. Human leaders rise and fall, but God’s throne is never up for election. His reign is holy, unshaken, and eternal. Trust in His ultimate governance—even when today’s rulers fail.

Verse 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.”*

This verse pictures a global gathering of princes and people—a unified worship of God by those from many nations who now belong to the God of Abraham. The “shields of the earth”—a poetic image of rulers or powers—*belong to God*. He owns them all. And He is *greatly exalted*.

Application:

The final word belongs to God. No matter how powerful human institutions may seem, they are not sovereign. They are subject to God’s authority. And one day, *every knee will bow* and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Are you ready to be part of that global worship?

Conclusion: A Psalm for a New Age

Psalm 47 is more than a New Year psalm—it is a preview of a *New Age*, the Kingdom Age, when Jesus will reign visibly over all the earth. It stirs us to worship, not because of what we wish would happen, but because of what God has *already promised* will happen. We are not working toward the triumph of God’s kingdom—we are *waiting for it*, and we rejoice in advance because we know how the story ends.

*“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying,
‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ,
and He shall reign forever and ever!’” — Revelation 11:15*

Let us clap our hands, lift our voices, and sing praises with understanding. The King is coming—and He will be greatly exalted.