

Sunday Night Message

November 10, 2013

Psalm 47

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 47

Introduction

It is thought that this psalm goes along with Psalm 46, and is a fulfillment of v. 10, though it speaks of a different kind of worship than 46:10:

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalms 46:10)

We said that the historical context of Psalm 46 may have been the triumph by God over the Assyrians, as recorded in 2 Kings 18 - 19, 2 Chronicles 32, and Isaiah 36 - 37. Jerusalem was surrounded by an infinitely superior military power, they were shut up within the city walls, and God gloriously delivered them without them having to lift a finger. The Bible tells us that 185,000 of the Assyrian army woke up, and they were all dead corpses.

We also said that Psalm 46, and possibly this psalm, though referring to an historical event may also be prophetic of the future victory of the Lord over the armies of Antichrist as recorded in The Book of Revelation. (See Revelation 14:19 - 20; 19:11 - 21)

In Psalm 46, God's people seemed to be in the middle of the battle, but experiencing the mighty hand of God. God told them to "be still", and trust Him.

Here, they have experienced the victory, and God wants them to rejoice.

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah."

Notice once again. This is a psalm for the sons of Korah. We began to see these psalms for the sons of Korah in Psalm 42. Korah was the one who led a rebellion against Moses, and was actually put to death by God in Numbers 16. His sons were not put to death, however, and were made worship leaders in the tabernacle. (1 Chronicles 9:19; 26:1 - 19).

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."
(Psalms 47:1)

Notice the contrast here from the "be still" from Psalm 46. When you are going through the battle, God wants you to "be still" and trust in Him. He certainly does not want you griping about your situation, or expressing your doubts. He wants you to trust Him, and "be still".

However, after the victory has been won, God wants His people to celebrate. Clap your hands, shout, and five times in vs. 6 and 7, He says to sing.

Notice that we are to praise God with excitement and exuberance. Our rejoicing should be evident. We should praise him with a loud voice, and it is not wrong to clap your hands, or shout Amen! or Hallelujah! When you are reflecting upon the goodness of God.

"For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth."
(Psalms 47:2)

Why should we shout, and clap, sing, and praise God? Because He is *terrible*, meaning awesome.

*"Let all the earth **fear** the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."* (Psalms 33:8)

*"Say unto God, How **terrible** art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee."* (Psalms 66:3)

*"Come and see the works of God: he is **terrible** in his doing toward the children of men."* (Psalms 66:5)

*"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in **reverence** of all them that are about him."* (Psalms 89:7)

*"For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be **feared** above all gods."* (Psalms 96:4)

We should praise God because he is an awesome and sovereign King.

"He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet." (Psalms 47:3)

*"He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. **Selah.**"* (Psalms 47:4)

We should praise God, not only for who He is, but also for what he will do. We know what God will do from his Word, and we can believe Him because He has already done awesome things for us in the past.

"God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet." (Psalms 47:5)

"is gone up" is in the past tense. He has ascended. (See Ephesians 1:19 – 23; 4:7 – 10; Philippians 2:5 – 11; Colossians 1:12 – 19; Hebrews 1:1 – 3)

We praise God – we shout – we clap the hands – we fear him:

Because of Who He is – an awesome, sovereign King (over all of the earth)

Because of what He promises to do.

Because of what He already has done.

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises." (Psalms 47:6)

"For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding." (Psalms 47:7)

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalms 100:1-5)

See also Psalm 126

"God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness." (Psalms 47:8)

Notice – God reigns over the heathen. He reigns over all of those who are rejecting them today. He reigns over the people in your life that think you are a fanatic for worshipping God. He reigns over nature. Someday, He will demonstrate His power over this earth.

"The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted." (Psalms 47:9)