

Sunday Morning Equipping Class

Studying Psalms
Jan 8 - Feb 12

Psalm 47

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

1 Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

3 He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

4 He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

Psalm 47

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

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

7 For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

Psalm 47

8 God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!

On Your Own

Read Psalm 47

- 1. What do we learn about who God is?*
- 2. What do we learn about people?
(Who they are? What's true of them?
What they should do?)*
- 3. Who do you think is being addressed
in this psalm?*

Table Discussion

What encourages you about this psalm?

What questions do you have about this psalm?

Psalms of Zion

...Hymns celebrating Zion as the special city, to which God has pledged himself and through which he will bless the world. Psalms like this include Psalms 46-48; 76; 87; and 122.

-The ESV Study Bible

Psalms of Zion

1 Kings 8:1

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

Psalms of Zion: Interpretive Keys

1. God's promises to and purpose for Israel

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Psalms of Zion: Interpretive Keys

1. God's promises to and purpose for Israel

Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Psalms of Zion: Interpretive Keys

1. God's promises to and purpose for Israel

2. The “Already and Not Yet” Paradigm of Redemptive History

Isaiah 46:8-10

8 “Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,

9 remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,

10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

"Psalms 46-48 combine to celebrate God's purposes and protection for Zion. Psalm 46 focuses especially on the privileges Zion enjoyed as the city in which God dwelt and from which God intended to be exalted among all nations. Psalm 47 especially focuses on God's dramatic acts of deliverance for his city, demonstrating his reign over all nations. Psalm 48 ties all these themes together: Zion is the place at which God dwells, it is the place God protects, and it is the place out of which he intends to bring his praise to the very ends of the earth. The congregation that would sing these in faith would find their confidence strengthened, their gratitude for privileges deepened, and their perspective of the true story of the world - in which they are participating - broadened. Each fresh act of deliverance serves to enhance this effect.

Christians proclaim that the era has now arrived in which God's praise is being extended to reach to the ends of the earth. To enjoy the privilege of God's presence among his worshippers is also to enjoy one's role in bringing that praise to those who do not yet know him. Further, God's purposes for physical Jerusalem now apply to his worldwide church - and God will not allow any created power to destroy his people.”

- Collins, C. John, ESV Expository Commentary, Psalms p. 270-271

Table Discussion

On your own, reread Psalm 47 with these interpretive keys in mind. As a table, discuss how do they help bring greater understanding of the psalm?

1. God's promises to and purpose for Israel

2. The “Already and Not Yet” Paradigm of Redemptive History

Psalm 47:1-4

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Psalm 47:1-4

“God is the powerful King of the whole earth and is subduing people to his rule. But because God is the rightful King—the one we were created to know, serve, and love—the result of his conquest of their hearts is joy. They clap their hands because of his rule over them (verse 1). God is the fuel that our souls were designed to run on. So the greater the submission to the true King, the greater the pleasure.”

Keller, Timothy; Keller, Kathy. The Songs of Jesus (p. 98). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Psalm 47:5-7

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

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
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2 Samuel 6:12-15

12 And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

Psalm 47:8-9

8 God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.

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Table Discussion

Read Psalm 87. How does this other Psalm of Zion help you understand the meaning of Psalm 47:8-9.

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Psalm 87:1-6

- 1 On the holy mount stands the city he founded;
- 2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.
- 3 Glorious things of you are spoken,
O city of God. *Selah*

Psalm 87:1-6

4 Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;
behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush—
“This one was born there,” they say.

5 And of Zion it shall be said,
“This one and that one were born in her”;
for the Most High himself will establish her.

6 The LORD records as he registers the peoples,
“This one was born there.” *Selah*

Malachi 1:14b

For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

Ephesians 2:18-20

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Revelation 7:9-10

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Psalm 47:8-9

“The final verse reveals an astonishing vision. Eventually God’s people, the children of Abraham, will include people from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation (verse 9). This was promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:3), but only in Jesus Christ, in the ultimate ascension to the greatest throne (Ephesians 1:20–23), will it be realized (Revelation 7:9).”

Keller, Timothy; Keller, Kathy. The Songs of Jesus (p. 98). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Now, with a single word, the real end in view comes into sight. The innumerable *princes* and *peoples* are to become one *people*; and they will no longer be outsiders but within the covenant: this is implied in their being called *the people of the God of Abraham*. It is the abundant fulfillment of the promise of Genesis 12:3; it anticipates what Paul expounds of the inclusion of the Gentiles as Abraham's sons (Romans 4:11; Galatians 3:7-9).

-Kidner, Derek, TOTC Psalms 1-72, p.196

On Your Own

How is your mind
engaged?

How are your emotions
affected?

How will it affect the way
you live this week?

"In the OT the singing congregation would have consisted almost entirely of Israelites - and yet, the psalm speaks as if it were addressing the Gentiles and calling them into the worshipping assembly. The rhetorical function of this is to have the singing Israelites imagine the Gentiles receiving this call and to ponder how that might happen. In the OT era the chief means for Gentiles to come to know the true God was by way of their observing the faithful corporate and individual lives of the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 4:6-8) and sometimes their hearing of God's glorious deeds from afar (Exodus 15:14; 1 Kings 8:41-43). Israel was in the world as the vehicle by which the rest of the world might know the Lord (Exodus 19:5-6). To sing Psalm 47 in faith, then, would enable the people of Israel to refresh their appreciation of, and commitment to, this assigned task and privilege. It would also foster in them a yearning for the long-awaited era in which this task would be fulfilled, the "latter days" of Isaiah 2: 2 - a yearning that would lead to earnest prayer.

The NT makes it plain that these last or "latter days" have now arrived with the resurrection of Jesus. The universal King over all the earth has installed the final Davidic king

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1: 21-23)

Christians who sing this psalm can be filled with confidence and with renewed ownership of their role as God's vehicle of blessing to the world - a role that will succeed. God will see to that."

- Collins, C. John, *ESV Expository Commentary, Psalms p. 266*