

## Psalm 47 Our God Reigns

**Most Scholars believe that Psalm 47 was written by King Hezekiah.**

**A) They believe that the King wrote this Psalm after the Lord brought Israel a miraculous victory of the Forces of Assyria**

**B) Assyria was the Superpower at that time in the world - led by King Sennacherib - boasted of their power and might**

1) Dared to Defy any people and their god who would dare to stand against them

**D) The Assyrians had come against Israel and were encamped outside the city of Jerusalem**

1) **They gave an ultimatum** - to King Hezekiah and the people of Israel - Surrender or be destroyed

**You can read the account of this Story in 2 Kings 18-19**

**That was the situation that King Hezekiah found himself in SO what was he going to do?**

**A) Well The King - Prayed - Spread the letter before the Lord - hear is what Assyria is saying about you.**

**B) The Lord told him to stand strong and to not be afraid- trust in the Lord**

**C) I love the way John Philipps describes this scene in his commentary on the Psalms**

The massive armies of Assyria had deployed themselves around Jerusalem. The watchers on the city walls could see nothing but a vast sea of troops and tents as far as the eye could reach. The imperial standards of the Assyrian emperor flew in the breeze as the battering rams and slings, the scaling ladders, and all the machinery of war was assembled before the gates.

Fierce-faced, bearded men were burnishing their shields and sharpening their swords for the onslaught, for the success they were sure would be theirs. The time for talking, parleying, and propaganda was over. Hezekiah had refused to listen;

So tomorrow the assault would begin: the battering rams would pound away at the gates of Jerusalem,

the engines of war would hurl great boulders into the city, the archers would blacken the sky with their arrows, as the ground troops would begin to undermine the walls. Then they would ransack the city, ravish the women, massacre the men, and seize the spoil.

**C) A Powerful and vivid description of what awaited the people of Israel.**

**Imagine that night - the watchers on the wall no doubt had a sleepless night keeping their eyes peeled for a surprise attack.**

**A) Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah had spent the night praying and watching**

**B) As the dawn broke and the sun flooded the Judean hills with light - they looked out over the Assyrian camp**

**C) It was strange - there was no sound, eerily silent - no movement, no call to arms, no trumpet blast - 1) As the sun rose higher they could see Vultures were circling the camp - the birds sensed death**

**What happened? The Lord had deployed ONE ANGEL - and that ONE ANGEL - destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers -**

**A) Their entire army lay dead - Never again would Assyrian armies tramp across Judean hills.**

**B) Upon the news of this Massive display of power by God and this monumental victory -**

**C) Hezekiah wrote this Psalm that we are looking at today.**

**<sup>1</sup> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!**

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

**3 He will subdue the peoples under us,  
And the nations under our feet.**

**4 He will choose our inheritance for us,  
The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.**

**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 understanding.**

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

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.

**Psalm 47 is a Psalm of Victory - it is a Psalm that celebrates the Sovereignty of God over the nations.**

A)But it is also regarded as a Messianic Psalm -

B)A Psalm that prophesies of a greater day to that is to come

1)A day when King Jesus will exercise his power and might over - the nations of the world

C)A final battle that takes place there in Israel - a battle known as the **battle of Armageddon** -

1)More about that in a few minutes

**I am going to divide this Psalm into two sections**

Section #1 Rejoicing in God's Power V.1-4

Section #2 Rejoicing in God's Position V.5-9

**Rejoicing in God's Power V.1-4**

1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

**In ancient times, kings were saluted at their with clapping of hands and with shouting**

A)After such a great and **miraculous victory** like this - where it was evident that God had done a marvelous work

**B)You wouldn't think it necessary for King Hezekiah to issue such a command to clap your hands**

1)and shout with a voice of triumph/ - but truth be told we humans can be very ungrateful

**Remember the scene in Luke 17 - Jesus cleanses 10 lepers**

A)But only one came back to give Him thanks, and he was a Samaritan. - Jesus took notice

**"Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"**

B)I am sure that Jesus could say the same thing about us at times - he moves and works in our lives - 1)he answers prayer - he provides -**And we FAIL to give him PRAISE**

**C)Why is that ?** I want you to think about something that involves the clapping of hands.

D)In order to really clap your hands your hands have to be empty.

**Perhaps our reluctance at times to give ourselves to praise and worship and be people of gratitude - Our hands aren't empty**

A)Our hands are too full of burdens we are carrying - of possessions and attachments we refuse to let go of

**B)Praise would flow more from us - if we took ourselves a little less seriously**

V.2 For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

**First Hezekiah focused on the name of Jehovah, (THE LORD)**

A)This is the name of God in His covenant-making character—**He keeps his promises**

**B)But Then Hezekiah calls God the "Most High," Elyon, the name by which God had revealed Himself to Abraham**

1)after the slaughter of the kings of the East and the coming of Melchizedek.

C)Elyon means God is the **"Possessor of Heaven and earth."** It is the millennial title of God.

D)Idea is he is Sovereign in his Rule the God above all gods and all leaders

**The Lord... Most High..... is awesome**

A)The word Awesome is actually translated **terrible** in other translations -

B)it speaks of being awe-inspiring or even fear-inspiring

C)The Corpse filled camp of the Assyrians surely proclaimed that the living **God of Israel was awe-inspiring or fear inspiring.**

**The History of the empires of the world is an interesting study - Empires come and go**

A)Egypt was once a great world power, but it is weak today.

**B)Babylon was mighty, but its territory has been divided, defeated - Iraq today**

C)Greece and Rome, once wonders of mankind, have fallen.

1)The Soviet Union fell apart.

D)Even the United States of America, still considered a World power - but on decline

1)We are discovering what Solomon declared in Prov. 14:34 is true

**“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Prov. 14:34).**

**Nations and super powers come and go but the Kingdom of God - stands and continues to advance**

A)Think Communist China tries to suppress the preaching of the Gospel -

B)the largest number of Christians in any country in the world is in China

C)Where is **the gospel spreading the fastest** ? Iran

1)Another country where it is illegal to be a Jesus follower

**D)Super powers come and go/ But the Kingdom of God stands strong Forever/ Evil can spread**

1)God is still on the throne - His plan is unfolding

**E)Everything is moving in the direction of V.3**

**V.3 He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.**

A)At this point Hezekiah is Looking to the future - **will subdue**

B)Many scholars believe that Hezekiah is speaking prophetically here -

1)looking ahead to that time in future history the Bible speaks of

C)When all the nations of the earth led by the Anti-Christ are marching to Megiddo.

1)Ar-Meggido - Armeggoan

D)Coming against Israel - Israel's doom seems sealed:

E)But the Bible tells us after his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming -

1)Jesus and the forces of heaven are going to intervene - Destroy those forces

**In the same way that the Assyrians were no match for the Lord - neither will the Anti-Christ/ his forces.**

A)The massacre by ONE ANGEL - in 2 Kings 19 is merely a picture a shadow of things to come

B)One of my favorite teachings in Israel - looking over this vast Valley - Blood up to the horses bridal

C)Great Victory for Jesus! - The Messiah - Yosi - that is AWESOME - VICTORY FOR ISRAEL

**D)V.4 He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.**

E)**The word “excellence** in v.4 can better be translated “pride.”

1)The nation of Israel was Jehovah's pride and Joy It was the object of His love.

F)God referred to the nation of Israel as the apple of his eye in **Zachariah 2:8 and Deuteronomy 32:10**

**God pledged his allegiance to the nation of Israel - the people of Israel - not because they were great and mighty.**

A)They were underdogs - they were weak -they were small

B)He made a covenant with Abraham and later with David - to forever bless Israel

C)To make Israel - a blessing to the world - that has been proven to be true in **many economic ways and agricultural ways - oil**

D)But the biggest way that Israel blessed the World

**E)has been by giving the opportunity for men and women - all over the world to be saved -**

1)brought back into relationship with God - thru JESUS

**God's blessing upon Israel doesn't mean that He approves of everything that Israel does**

A)Not at all - in fact throughout Israel's history they have lived as a people who have abandoned God -

B)But God will not abandon them - He has pledged himself to them

C)This is one of the reasons why the Tribulation time we read about in Revelation **is known as THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE**

D)A big part of the reason for that time is ONCE and FOR ALL get the attention of the people of Israel

1)in drawing them back into right relationship with God

E)They will see clearly - that Jesus is the Messiah

**When Jesus returns the Jewish people will ask -**

A) **Where did you get those wounds in your hands? - In the house of my friends Zechariah 13**

B)Eyes opened - realize - Jesus who was crucified was indeed the Messiah

1)Two comings #1 Lamb .... Take away.... World

C)But at his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming - he comes as the Lion of the tribe of Judah to wipe out the enemies of Israel and set up his Kingdom in Israel

D) **He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.**

1)Hezekiah is pointing to that moment - even though he doesn't know the full scope of how this prophecy will unfold.

Rejoicing in God's Power V.1-4

Rejoicing in God's Position V.5-9

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

**He is Risen!**

A)Commentators have disagreed over the meaning of this verse,

B)Some believe that it is talking about, the picture here is of the ark of the covenant coming to the temple. (David brought back - great celebration.)

C)Personally doesn't fit the context of what Hezekiah is seeing

**Others believe Hezekiah is continuing to speak prophetically and that this is a reference to Christ's ascension after His earthly ministry.**

A)**Calvary is over!** The sufferings of Christ gave place to the glory that should follow.

B)There at the Mount of Olives that - Jesus was with his disciples and they saw him ascend into heaven

C)The word translated "gone up" literally means "exalted."

1)In fact, the same word is translated "exalted" at the very end of this psalm.

D)Jesus ascended into heaven and took his rightful place there on the **throne at the RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER**

**Remember the Angel said to the Disciples as they stared up into the clouds - what Just happened?**

Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11

**He is Reigning**

V.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.

A)**The people of Judah had faced a terrifying enemy. The Assyrians were very brutal and wicked.**

B)**They conquered nations through sheer force, brutality, and terror.**

1)There was no concern for the well-being of others and they regarding no man or God.

C)**They may have enjoyed a season of dominance, but they were no match for the Lord.**

1)He conquered them, reigning over the heathen.

**When Jesus came the first time he conquered an even greater enemy than the Assyrians or Rome or Russia -**

A)**He conquered sin and death - he defeated the Devil - the bondage and oppression he had held man under for over 3,000 yrs**

B) Jesus on the Cross - Declared - IT IS FINISHED  
- CRY OF VICTORY

C) BURIED IN THE TOMB

1) 3 DAYS LATER - HE ROSE - death was defeated

Forty days after that He ascended back into heaven

A) What a reception He must have received in glory!

B) With wonder, love, and enthusiasm the angelic hosts would have welcomed Him home.

C) With what astonishment they must have gazed upon His human form, at the spear wound in His side, the nail prints in His hands and feet,

1) the thorn-pierced brow, and the scourge marks on His back.

D) The Bible seems to indicate that Jesus still bears the scars - and will until after his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

Remember in the book of Revelation ch.5 -

A) Scroll that represents the title deed to the earth - Forfeited in the garden when Adam sinned

B) Why Satan is referred to as the god of this world - the prince of the power of the air.

C) The Angel takes the title deed - who is worthy to take the scroll - and break the seal - lay claim to planet earth again

1) No one in heaven and no one in earth - John began to weep

C) This world is going to forever be under the power of Satan

Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to lose its seven seals."

A) John looked expecting to see a ferocious lion - instead he saw Jesus as a lamb that had been slain

B) At the Cross and at this Resurrection - Jesus redeemed mankind - bought back - redeemed planet earth -

1) he broke the chains of the power of Satan.

C) And one day he is going to come back - as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and lay claim to what is rightfully his - Planet earth

He is Risen - He is Reigning

He is Righteous

8 God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.

A) The Old Testament priest wore a miter which bore the golden title, "Holiness unto the Lord."

B) Now The Roman Catholics assign this title to the pope of Rome/ consider their sovereign pontiff

C) When a person addresses the pope he is supposed to refer to him as "Your Holiness."

D) As a title for a pope it is a title of blasphemy. God has never given this title to any man except His Son.

Revelation 19 - There is a scene in heaven at the end of the 7yr Tribulation

A) After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! <sup>2</sup> For true and righteous are His judgments

B) That is the perspective of Heaven concerning all that God does - true and righteous - perfect in Holiness -

C) It is Right - Sometimes from our earthly vantage point - it doesn't make sense

D) But when we get to heaven - Ok now I get it -

1) Lord you are perfect in your Holiness

Even now We live in a world tainted by the curse of sin.

A) Wickedness and iniquity abound in our day.

B) There seems to be no end to the depths that humanity is willing to go in order to achieve their sinful, deviant lusts.

C) Sin and wickedness will reign upon the earth until the Lord returns.

When He comes again, He will rule in complete righteousness. That is His very nature.

A) He is holy and pure, unable to fellowship with sin.

B) The sinful and depraved will one day bow in humble submission to the ruling, righteous King!

### He is Returning

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.

A) During the reign of King Solomon - he made these gold shields -

B) The Shields represented the 12 tribes of Israel - and spoke of the unity of the nation of Israel

C) Hezekiah is writing 200 yrs after Solomon's reign - the nation has been divided

1) 10 tribes that make Israel in the North

D) The 2 tribes make up Judah in the south -

### Hezekiah reigned in Judah

Hezekiah is picturing a unified Israel - gathered together again in Unity when Jesus returns

A) The Lord on his throne reigning over his people again

B) The Lord on his throne - reigning over the earth!

C) Psalm of Victory - a Psalm that proclaims the great power and Victory of God over the Super power of the day - Assyria

D) A Psalm that points to the Victory that is to come when Jesus returns

1) Victory over the great powers of the earth

### Imagine that morning - when the sun arose -

A) Silent - the Vultures and circling -

B) Scouts are sent out to investigate - they come back - the enemy - they are all dead sir.

C) Gone completely destroyed

### Wow!!!! - How great is our God!

A) What would be your reaction? Awe inspiring - and terrifying in the same way right -

B) Like when Jesus stilled the storm - Who is this man..... obey Him

### So what do we do with this story? This Psalm

A) First this Psalm is meant to remind us - God is Sovereign

B) No matter who looks like they are winning - who is in charge -

C) We know that God is still on the throne - and it is only going to be a matter of time - flex his muscles

### 2<sup>nd</sup> - This Psalm is meant to Inspire HOPE -

A) JESUS WINS -

B) That is where this is all headed - He is going to return in glory and power and majesty

C) And we who know him - Christ followers - we will be on the right side of that scene - with JESUS

But 3<sup>rd</sup> this Psalm is meant to motivate us.

A) We have some good news to share -

### This story reminded me of another story in 2 Kings 6-7

A) It was during a time of great famine that the Syrians led by King Ben Hadad came against Northern Israel

B) They surrounded the city of Samaria - and were ready to let the people of Israel - starve to death

### C) There were these 4 Lepers - they couldn't go into Samaria because they were Lepers and contagious

D) So they said - lets go to the Syrians - they will either have mercy on us and give us food

1) Or they will kill us

E) But either way we are going to die - slow or quick

### When they got to the camp of Syrians - it was empty

A) It looked like the Syrians had fled in haste - tents were up - food was everywhere

B) The text tells us why the situation was that way

6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army;

C)The Syrians said to one another - **Israel has hired the armies of the Hittites/ the Egyptians to attack us -**

1)They got freaked out and fled for their lives

So these 4 lepers walk into the camp- they see food everywhere - - they are starving - **they haven't eaten in days**

A)They start - feasting - **gorging themselves -**

B)Then one of them gets a conscience and says - this isn't right - today is a day of good news -

1)**we need to share this food with everyone.**

**Application for us**

**It is not enough for us to know - how the story ends - have that hope**

A)The truth of what we are talking about today needs to Motivate us in the same way ...Lepers

B)We can't keep this to ourselves - We have the goodnews - THE GOSPEL -

C)It is wrong for us - not right for us to keep this to ourselves -

1) we need to get the word out

D)We need to live our lives with such a joy - that others are around us - Why are you so happy?

Hopeful!! - **give a reason for the hope that you have**

**Share it - Social media - Send an email - call a friend invite to coffee**

The World is crazy - my hope is in Jesus