

Worshipping and Celebrating Our Great God

Psalm 47

I. Rejoice in God Himself!

1. The method of rejoicing "Clap your hands ... Shout" –

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! (Psalm 47:1 NKJ)

A. Note a Universal call to applause –

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, (Revelation 5:9 NKJ)

B. Clapping is not only ALLOWED in church, but COMMANDED!

- *Expressly commanded by God's Word*
- *Irresistibly commanded by a real knowledge of God's awesomeness / His glory*

C. Clap and shout! With a Voice of triumph!

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? (Romans 8:31 NKJ)

2. The reasons for such rejoicing:

For the LORD Most High *is* awesome; *He is* a great King over all the earth. (Psalm 47:2 NKJ)

A. God is awesome / terrible

B. God is absolutely sovereign over everything -

³³ *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.* (Pro 16:33 NKJ)

C. *His reign, control is to our benefit*

- *He will subdue our enemies / those who now fight with us and God –*

He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.
(Psalm 47:3 NKJ)

- *He will choose our inheritance, our ultimate end*
- *This is a good thing because we know He loves us*

He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah (Psalm 47:4 NKJ)

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:31-39 NKJ)

II. *Rejoice in God's / Christ's Ascension –*

1. *The REASON for GREAT rejoicing Christ's resurrection, His ascension, His victory -*

God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
(Psalm 47:5 NKJ)

Christ's resurrection and His ascension into Heaven represent God's victory on our behalf over sin and death!

See all the pain and sorrow, in this world, caused by sin in Christ's dreadful death on the cross and yet the cross is not the end ---

Oh if it was THE END what a sad situation –

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. (1Co 15:14 NKJ)

2. The multitudinous rejoicing, singing which is called for by these GREAT EVENTS –

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. (Psalm 47:6-7 NKJ)

5 Times in two verses we are commanded to “sing praises” to our Great God and King!

“Here the bells ringing, their singing He is risen from the dead!”

“Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph over His foes!”

“He is LORD, He is LORD, He is risen from the dead and He is LORD every knee shall bow every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is LORD!”

“O worship the King, all glorious above!”

“To God be the GLORY great things He has done, so loved He the world that He gave us His Son! Who yielded His life an atonement for sin and OPENED the life gates that we may go in, Praise the LORD, Praise the LORD, let the earth here His voice, Praise the LORD, Praise the LORD, let the peoples rejoice!”

III. Rejoice again in God's sovereignty –

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NKJ)

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 47:8-9 NKJ)

Muse a while, obedient thought,
Lo, the theme's with rapture fraught;
See Thy King, whose realm extends
Even to earth's remotest ends!
Gladly shall the nations own -
Him their LORD and God alone;
Clap their hands with Holy mirth,
Hail Him Monarch of the Earth.
Come my soul, before Him bow,
Gladdest of His subjects thou;
Leave thy portion to His choice
In His sovereign will rejoice
This thy purest, deepest bliss
He is yours and you are His!
C.H. Spurgeon

Note about these last two verses:

1. God reigns over all the nations, even now!

You might ask, if God is ruling, why do such terrible things happen? ”

Because God is judging this ungodly world!

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor

were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32 NKJ)

2. He is sitting on His throne; His reign is a comfortable reign.
3. God's people, the people of faith / Abraham will gather, God is with us, we will win.
4. The shields (PROTECTIONS) armies belong to God:
 - A. Shields plural one shield may oppose but he controls them all
 - B. Scuta Deo - they belong to God that is their dignity / Scuta terra - they are of the earth, which is the realm of their duty!
5. He is greatly exalted!