

Psalm 47:1-9

Introduction: This Psalm seems to follow Jesus' victory at the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19). Often this psalm is reserved for recognition of Ascension Day. In the synagogue it is recited on New Year's Day (Rosh Hashanah, in September or October).

Superscription: *To the music director. A psalm of the sons of Korah.*

Gentile nations should openly acknowledge Israel's victorious Warrior-King—47:1-4

- 1) The call to worship—47:1
 - a) Solemn agreement—¹ *Clasp your^{pl} hand* (in pledge), *all peoples*;
 - i) Cf. Proverbs 6:1; 17:18; 22:26
 - ii) The concept of applause is a different Hebrew word
 - b) Joyous celebration—*shout to God with the sound of joy*,
- 2) The causes of worship—47:2-4 ² *because ...*
 - a) His supremacy is rooted in infinite greatness—*Yahweh Most High* (Elyon) *is to be feared* (held in awe), *a great King over all the earth*.
 - i) OT—Elyon is first observed in Genesis 14:18-22. Used over 20 x in Psalms out of the nearly 50 totals uses in the OT.
 - ii) NT—Most High is used 6 x. See especially Acts 7:48 & 16:17.
 - iii) Fearing Yahweh (cf. Psalm 2:11)
 - b) His conquering is rooted in inexhaustible power—³ *He has subdued peoples under us and* (He subdues) *nations under our feet*.
 - i) The nation of Israel is the entity through which God accomplishes His purpose of restoring humanity to unity before Yahweh. (Wilson)
 - ii) The nations will not clasp the hand and shout with joy unless they are subdued. (Ross)
 - iii) “Under our feet”—cf. Joshua 10:24; Psalm 110:1
 - c) His choice is rooted in irrevocable love—⁴ *He chooses for us our inheritance, the eminence of Jacob whom He loves*.
 - (1) Cf. Deuteronomy 32:8
- 3) *Selah*.

Gentile nations should skillfully make music to Israel's sovereign Governor-King—47:5-9

- 1) Yahweh ascends His royal throne—47:5
 - a) ⁵ *God has ascended* (His throne) *with a shout*,
 - b) *Yahweh* (has ascended His throne) *with the sound of a shofar*.
 - i) Similar to David bring the ark to Jerusalem (2nd Samuel 6:15)
- 2) The call to worship—47:6
 - a) ⁶ *Make music to God, make music*;
 - b) *Make music to our King, make music*,
- 3) The cause of worship—47:7-8 ⁷ *because ...*

- a) His domain is universal—*God is the King of all the earth;*
 - i) Praises are to be sung to the One Who subdues them under Israel.
(1) Cf. this with Matthew 6:10, 13 and Psalm 46:10)
 - ii) *Make music with understanding.*
 - (1) Understand that the universe is about God, and not you.
 - (2) This refers to music being played appropriately and with requisite skill. (Allen)
 - (a) “The music that will be performed and sung at the coronation of the King of glory will be both appropriate in its selection and skillful in its performance. Anything less would ruin the occasion.” (Allen)
 - iii) In the movie, *Titanic*, Leonard DiCaprio’s character stands on the bow of the soon-to-be-sunk ocean liner and shouts, “I’m the king of the world.” What an empty expression. Worse yet is that the director, James Cameron, shouted the same words when he received his Oscar.
 - b) His dominion is universal—⁸ *God reigns over the nations! God sits on His holy throne!*
- 4) What will the nations do?—47:9
- a) ⁹ *The nobles of the peoples have gathered together as the people of the God of Abraham;*
 - i) Remember their sinful gathering in Psalm 2:2
 - ii) This is a fulfillment of God’s covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:3.
 - iii) A reversal of the tower of Babel.
 - b) Why? *because the shields of the earth belong to God.*
 - i) He has defeated them all. They are hung on His trophy wall as a symbol of lasting victory. The weapons of warfare are no longer needed. (Allen)
- 5) Restatement of 47:5—*He is greatly exalted.*
- 6) Compare this with the 2 songs in Isaiah 12:1-3 & 4-6

Take-home truth: until this psalm is fulfilled, believers must do what the psalmist did, call the world to submit to the sovereign Lord who has gained the victory over the greatest enemies. (Ross)

Prayer: Father, teach me to worship with all my heart and all my soul all the time. Amen.