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The  
Songs  
47

# PSALMS - The SONGS

Forty-seven

The LORD Most High is King Over All the Earth!

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 47** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. He, His, Most High, King, etc.), with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 47** and mark every reference to the nation of Israel, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. our, us, Jacob, etc.), with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 47** and mark every reference to the nations, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. peoples, princes of the people), with a purple flag.

Read through **Psalm 47** and mark every reference to praise, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. sing, skillful psalm), with a blue musical note.

Read through **Psalm 47** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Clap your hands to the King—He subdues nations under our feet
2. Sing praises to the King—He reigns over the nations

## READ AND ANSWER

**Psalm 47:1-4**

To whom is the psalmist speaking?

Who are “all” peoples?



The nations of the world (everyone other than the nation of Israel)  
are often referred to as peoples.  
The nation of Israel is never spoken of in this manner.

**Why?**

Because Israel is God's chosen nation or people.

When God created the earth He created Adam and Eve to populate it.  
They sinned and passed down their unrighteous heritage to their descendants.  
Sin increased so much that God eventually destroyed the earth through a flood  
and started over with Noah and his family.  
But even after the flood sin continued  
and rather than obey God's order to spread out over all the earth and populate it,  
mankind decided they would make a name for themselves  
in a place that was not yet named Babylon.

God's purpose in populating the earth was to bring Glory to Himself  
from the entire planet  
(He had a plan to make the people righteous through the Promised Messiah).  
However, until the time of Messiah, men would not have the indwelling Holy Spirit  
to cause them to walk in God's ways so sin continued.

Anyway, back to Babylon...

After the flood the population increased but only in the original area.  
The people all spoke the same language.  
They decided to stay right where they were  
and build a tower to a bunch of false gods and get famous in doing so.  
Bad plan. (Any plan other than God's plan is bad.)

God intervened and caused them to speak many different languages.  
The people could not understand one another  
so they moved around until they found someone  
who spoke the same language they were speaking personally.

The groups that formed became nations.  
That is how the *people* of the earth became the *peoples* of the earth.

Was Israel one of these *peoples* of the earth?  
No.

Sometime later, after God formed the nations,  
He called a man out of the Ur of the Chaldeas (near Babylon)—

**His name was Abram,  
which God later changed to Abraham when He entered into Covenant with him.  
God promised him that He would make him into a great nation.**

**Abraham had two sons—Ishmael and Isaac.  
God chose Isaac and ratified the Covenant with him.**

**Isaac had two sons—Esau and Jacob.  
God chose Jacob, changed his name to Israel, and ratified the Covenant with him.**

**Jacob had twelve sons.  
Those twelve sons of the man named Israel  
became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.**

**God had made all the other nations at one time—  
sort of like mass production.**

**But with Israel,  
He chose one man out of all of those nations  
and made him into a separate nation—  
sort of like a special order.**

**The nations are *all* the nations of the earth *except* Israel.**

**In God's eyes, Israel stands apart from the other nations of the world.  
In God's eyes, there is Israel... and then there is everyone else.**

**She is special to Him...**

After reading the **Point of Depth**, you should have a general idea of who the peoples of the world are, so I am going to ask you to reason a bit with me. If it is normally sufficient, when addressing the nations other than Israel, to just call them "the nations" or "the peoples", why do you think the psalmist added the word "all"? In other words, just exactly who does "all the peoples" include?

1.

2.

What does the psalmist tell all the peoples of the world (both Israel and the nations) to do?

1.

2.

Why are all the peoples to clap their hands and shout to God with the voice of joy?

Why is the LORD Most High to be feared?

Who is the LORD Most High according to the text?

What does the great King over all the earth do?

1.

2.

3.

If the great King over all the earth subdued the peoples (nations) under the feet of Israel, would that make them (nations) fear Him?



**Although it might be understandable why the nations will fear Israel's God  
once He subdues them under Israel,  
why would it make them want to shout to God with the voice of joy?**

**The answer is found throughout the Bible, but not in this particular Psalm.**

**Just to whet your appetite, take a look at this...**

**Isaiah 2:2-4  
Now it will come about that in the last days**

***The mountain of the house of the LORD  
Will be established as the chief of the mountains,  
And will be raised above the hills;  
And all the nations will stream to it.  
And many peoples will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
That He may teach us concerning His ways  
And that we may walk in His paths.”  
For the law will go forth from Zion  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
And He will judge between the nations,  
And will render decisions for many peoples;  
And they will hammer their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
And never again will they learn war.***

Who is the “us”?

What does it mean that the LORD Most High chooses Israel’s inheritance?

Who, or what, is the glory of Jacob? (Not “who, or what, is Jacob”, but the *glory* of Jacob.)

What relationship does the LORD Most High have with Jacob (Israel)?

**Psalm 47:5-9**

Who has ascended?



**The Hebrew word for “ascended” is *alah* and carries the meanings of arise, ascend, mount up, or go high.**

To what (in context) did God ascend?

What took place when God took up His throne?

- 1.
- 2.

Who is to sing praises to God, Israel's King? (Hint: Think this through before answering. Let context determine your answer.)

Why are all the peoples (both Israel and the rest of the nations) to sing praises to God, Israel's King?

In other words, over whom is God the King? Who is "all the earth"?

- 1.
- 2.

Is this true now? Yes, it is true that God is sovereign over all—always has been and always will be. But do the nations of the world (or Israel for that matter) acknowledge and bow to Him as their King?

Has this **Psalm** been fulfilled yet?

What must happen before this **Psalm** can be fulfilled?

When will God take up His throne and rule over the world?



**The Millennial Reign,  
when Christ rules the world from Jerusalem for 1,000 years,  
has not yet begun.**

**Here is a schedule of events, if you will,**

**of some things that have taken place and will need to take place  
before the Millennial Reign can begin.**

**God has always existed in His Glorious Glory.  
God created creation so His Glory would be seen.  
God established the early fathers of the nation of Israel.  
God created the nation of Israel.  
Israel's Messiah came.  
Israel rejected her Messiah.  
God put Israel's history on pause and created the church.**

***That's some of what has happened so far.  
Here's some of what is left to come.***

**Israel's history will be restarted and finished during Daniel's 70th week.  
(This will begin the Day of the Lord.  
It will commence when the anti-christ is revealed and will last 3 1/2 years.)  
Israel's Messiah will come again.  
God will judge the nations.  
The Millennial Reign will begin.**

**This is when Messiah will take up His throne and rule the earth.  
This is the time period of Psalm 47.**

**By the way...  
At the end of the 1,000 year global reign of Messiah from Jerusalem  
there will be final judgment—  
the dead will be judged and the earth and the heavens will be destroyed.  
Then a new heaven and a new earth and a new Jerusalem will be established.  
Both Israel and the church will live in the new Jerusalem with their God.**

How is God's throne described?

Who has assembled?

Who are the princes of the people? (Context! If you are not sure how to answer, consider the next line, "For the shields of the earth belong to God".)

As what have the nations of the world assembled themselves?

Why?

How can the nations of the world assemble as the people of the God of Abraham?

Over whom will He rule?

What is the LORD'S position over all the peoples of the earth—both Israel and the rest of the nations?

## READ AND REASON

This particular **Psalm** has been used in song by many a songwriter through the years. But I wonder just how often it has been used in context?

While it is true we can sing the song without understanding it entirely, it sure detracts from the psalmist's intent—or rather, from God's intent.

**Psalm 47** is written as though it has already happened because there is absolutely no doubt that it will—God has declared what He will do, so it's as good as done! This **Psalm** is written in a prophetic future style which leaves no mystery as to Who wins in the end. God wins! He will be King! He will be highly exalted!

And God's people win—the righteous remnant of Israel, the people of the God of Abraham, will be vindicated. The world will know that God has loved her...

### **Isaiah 54:17**

***“No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;  
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.  
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,  
And their vindication is from Me,”  
declares the LORD.***

God has truly chosen Jacob's inheritance... and it is not one of being despised... it is one of exaltation alongside her Messiah...

### **Isaiah 60:1–3**

***Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
And deep darkness the peoples;  
But the LORD will rise upon you***

***And His glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
And kings to the brightness of your rising.***

**Isaiah 60:14**

***The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you,  
And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet;  
And they will call you the city of the LORD,  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.”***

Until that happens, along with all the other glories that go along with it for the people of God, we can sing this **Psalm** with the knowledge and understanding of what will happen. We can praise Him now for what He will most certainly bring to pass!

## Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.**

**Verses 1-4**

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**Verses 5-9**

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## Purpose of Psalm 47

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 47.  
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

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 Theme of Psalm 47

**Try giving Psalm 47 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states “*what* the Psalm is about”.**

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