

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Psalm 47.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Psalm 47.

Topics.

- God the Most High is King of all the earth.
- God chose Israel as his heritage.
- God reigns over the nations; God sits on His Holy Throne.
- Sing praises to our King, sing praises with understanding.
- Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ and the Commonwealth of Israel.

INTRODUCTION: Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Book Two (Psalm 42-72)

To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

God the Most High is King of all the Earth.

Psalm 47:1-2 ----- ¹Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! ²For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

The focus of this Psalm is not upon Christ the King, but upon his heavenly Father the invisible, immortal, Almighty God of all creation and source of all life. The following verses (there are many more) clearly show that God Jehovah was called the King in the Old Testament: -

- For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods (Psalm 95:3).
- I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King (Isa. 43:15).
- The LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king (Jer. 10:10).
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David being a King and prophet wrote: -

- The earth and those who dwell in it is the LORD'S (Jehovah) who will ascend to the hill of the LORD and stand in His Holy place, everyone who has a honest heart and does not act in deceit will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation such will be the generation of those who seek the LORD (Ps. 24:1-6). Then David says that the King of glory will come in the LORD, strong and mighty in battle! The LORD of hosts who is the King of glory! Selah (Psalm 24:7-10).

In this prophecy of David's the LORD God (Jehovah) the King of glory is pictured coming to the faithful of the Old Testament defeating their enemies battle, but the Psalm can also be seen as echoing the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to be the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16). These verses clearly show that the Old Testament prophets knew the LORD God JEHOVAH as King.

God chose Israel as His Heritage.

Psalm 47:3-4 ----- ³He (the LORD the great King) subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. ⁴He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

The following verses show that the United Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation. God said: -

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation: -

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules. (Rom. 9:4)
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises. (Rom. 3:4)
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory. (Rom. 3:5)
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2)
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Rom. 9:7)
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. (Rom. 9:5)

Added to these God said: -

- 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 (Exod. 19:5).
- The LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments (Deut. 26:18).

The Psalmist wrote: -

- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

The thermometer of God's prophecy: it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return.

It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being.

Likewise Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

For further information concerning this new nation God is building in Christ see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel," at the end of this chapter.

God Reigns over the Nations; God Sits on His Holy Throne.

Psalm 47:5-9 ----- ⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! ⁸God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. ⁹The 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!

God is King over all the earth means He is King over the following: -

- All creation upon the earth and all weather patterns that affect it (good and bad).
- All rulers, kingdoms and nations upon the earth.
- All the providences, fates, chances and fortunes of mankind.

God's sovereign rule and eternal foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the mortal finite human mind, but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. By eternal foreknowledge God is able to allow us to do as we please and come, what may our free will is still mysteriously working within His Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal end that He planned and purposed before the beginning of time.

This is the wonder of dwelling in an eternal dimension that has no beginning and no end and the wonder of God's eternal mind and His eternal foreknowledge. A mystery our mortal and limited minds cannot grasp or comprehend. This is why Scripture states, "Man cannot find out the work of God that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out." (Eccles. 8:17).

The three great pillars of God are: -

1. Holiness.
2. Love.
3. Mercy.
4. Justice.

What other throne is like this? Never stained with injustice or defiled with sin, nor has He who sits upon dismayed, but sits in serenity fully knowing that his purposes will not miscarry, but all be fulfilled in perfect glory and eternal wonder. Until this time God sits upon His Throne unmoved, the eyes of His Spirit not only seeing all that happens upon the face of the earth, but also perceiving the heart of every man and women dwelling upon it, nothing is hidden from His eyes. Though he is King over all the earth His sovereign rule upon it is unrecognised and unseen by mortal minds. The Scriptures proclaim: -

- The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test, the children of man. (Psalm 11:4).
- Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?" (Isaiah 66:1).

Consider the following: near the end of the Old Testament Israel had set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets and turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Assyria to bring judgment upon Israel (the ten tribes) in the land of Samaria and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon who He called, "My servant" (Jer. 25:9) to bring judgment upon Judah (the two tribes) at Jerusalem. Later in God's master plan the Empire of Babylon conquered Assyria so both Judah and Israel were under Babylonian dominance and bondage for seventy years. During those years God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar into one faithful nation with one faith in the LORD their God.

At the end of the seventy years God used Cyrus (King of Persia) who He not only called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28), but also took him by his right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon and sway him to give written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again)

History writers looking at these events over so many years without the eyes of God would simply record that the greater army won the battle, they would be totally oblivious of the unseen hand of God working behind the curtain of such world changing events. In the New Testament God used Judas and Rome to bring about His plan of salvation. Christ's death and resurrection can be seen in the prophecies, Psalms and many Scriptures of the Old Testament the Saviours suffering on the bloodstained cross of Calvary was not a random event that took God by surprise, but something that was planned and purposed in the eternal mind of God from the beginning of time. (Who of us can comprehend such a bloodstained sacrifice of love and such wonder?).

God reigns over the nations: (v8) carries the following two ideas: -

1. He allows mankind free will to do as they please and is delaying judgment yet all things are working within His sovereign will and working toward His eternal plans and purposes for the earth.
2. He has the power to intervene in human history at any time and bring total destruction to all the pride of man and all weapons of war and all corrupt governments and establish an entire New Age in which His Son the Lord Jesus Christ will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords over all the nations of the earth to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. Until this day comes we all see through eyes that are veiled to God's workings upon the earth, only when Christ returns in glory will the veil be removed and we will see clearly the unrecognized workings of God now upon the earth and be delighted.

Sing praises to our King: (v6) the King of the earth should be praised as God, the Creator and the God of nature and the God of providence and as the God who allows those who dwell on the earth to run their affairs as they please until the appointed time of judgment. Following are two types of praise: -

1. Praise prompted from a sense of duty and tradition led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation which is formal in its nature of praise and once the worshippers have left the building the praise is ended.
2. Praise that flows continually up from the heart and mind in thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude toward God. This type of praise is also often led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation, but it has one major difference in that the praise flows up from the heart and when the worshippers leave the building the thanksgiving and praise continues on in the heart and mind throughout the worshippers' daily life.

The praise the Psalmist is calling those dwelling on the earth to praise God with is the praise that flows upward from an honest heart of gratitude and thankfulness toward the Creator of all the earth. It is only praise that originates in the heart that rises up before God's throne like sweet smelling incense.

Sing praises with understanding: means when we praise God we should pray with the understanding and clearly know why we are praising God. Without an understanding of God and why we are praising Him our worship is lacking. Unless we have the Kingdom of God established in our minds and the spirit of praise toward the Lord reigns in our hearts by faith our praise is left shallow and empty.

Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ: without understanding the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary; Jesus death and resurrection; the Gospel and God's grace praise toward our heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ will be nothing but the empty praise of duty and tradition motivated not from a heartfelt spirit of love toward God and our Saviour and redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ, but motivated by a choir professionally trained for such a purpose.

The Commonwealth of Israel.

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ.

This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

End.