

GOD IS IN CHARGE

Psalm 47 – We Win When He Wins

+ Dr. Edwin P. Elliott

I. God Chose His People

A. God brings good times as He gathers all people to Him. “To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, *all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*” (PSALM 47:1)

1. The Bible is optimistic about God’s triumph. “For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: *the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*” (ISAIAH 55:12)

2. Sometimes joy and weeping come simultaneously, but no one can ignore the revival of God’s work. “*And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever* toward Israel. And *all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.* But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept* with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: *So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping* of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.” (EZRA 3:11-13)

B. Reality has no neutral zone outside the law and administration of God. “For the LORD most high *is* terrible; *he is a great King over all the earth.*” (PSALM 47:2)

C. God takes the side of His people and He will certainly prevail. “*He shall subdue the people under us,* and the nations under our feet.” (PSALM 47:3) “For *he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:25)

D. As God gave inheritances to His ancient people; He will provide what is best for believers across eternity. “*He shall choose our inheritance for us,* the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.” (PSALM 47:4)

1. The final victory has been part of the plan from the start. “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*” (MATTHEW 25:34)

2. There will be no question about the victory when the King seizes the kingdom. “*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.* Who *is* this King of glory? *The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.* Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and *the King of glory shall come in.* Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he *is* the King of glory. Selah.” (PSALM 24:7-10)

II. God’s Government Is Revealing Itself

A. The faithful hear the victory shout of the ascending King of Glory; the war has been won. “*God is gone up with a shout,* the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.” (PSALM 47:5)

B. The celebration of God’s victory does not have to wait for the future. “Sing praises to God, sing praises: *sing praises unto our King,* sing praises.” (PSALM 47:6)

C. No place is independent and outside God's control even at the present stage of history. "For *God is the King of all the earth*: sing ye praises with understanding." (PSALM 47:7)

D. The world does not understand the LAMB OF GOD and therefore it does not grasp that the LION OF GOD is even now triumphing. "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, *Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, *Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*" (ACTS 1:5-11)

III. God Is King

A. Holiness is the standard by which God is reigning and that government extends over unbelievers as well as believers. "God reigneth over the heathen: *God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.*" (PSALM 47:8)

B. All people will eventually acknowledge the Lordship of Christ. "*The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham*: for the shields of the earth *belong* unto God: he is greatly exalted." (PSALM 47:9)