

International Bible Lessons

“Teaching the Truth in Love”

Sending International Sunday School Lessons and Bible Studies Around the World
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

How Does Knowing God Help You?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, October 24, 2010
Psalm 47:1-9

“For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm. God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne” (Psalms 47:7-8—NASB-U).

“For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne” (Psalms 47:7-81—NRSV).

“For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness” (Psalms 47:7-8—KJV).

Almost daily, we face reports that might make us worry over troubles within and among nations all around the world. We may indeed feel helpless to solve these problems, but the Bible assures us that we have a mighty Helper, God, who rules over the nations. God does not just sit back on His holy throne and watch the world, as an armchair quarterback might sit on his couch and watch a favorite football team on television. From His throne, God gives orders to the angels that watch over us and He restricts the principalities and powers that would do us untold evil if left unrestrained. With a mere word, the One who rules over Earth can still a storm or save thousands when an earthquake shakes buildings or brings them down. God can send prophets to warn His people to flee a coming disaster, and He can turn the heart of any world leader to achieve His purposes (whether that leader believes in or wants to serve God or not).

The psalmist also looks toward that time when “The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham” and highly exalt God (Psalm 47:9). Under the sovereign power and authority of Almighty God, God will bring peace among and within all nations. The Apostle John foretells that in the New Jerusalem, “The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it” (Revelation 21:24). Indeed, the Bible reminds us to worship and praise the One who is the Lord over all. —
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Questions for Further Thought

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Psalm 47:1-9

1. What ways of praising God mean the most to you? How would you describe reverent worship of God in contrast to irreverent “worship” of God?

2. How would you describe someone who was powerful, but immoral? How would you describe someone who was weak, but moral? What does it mean for believers to say that God is both all-powerful and morally pure? Why are both aspects of God’s nature important?

3. What heritage should believers leave for their children and grandchildren? What heritage should a congregation leave for the next generation of believers?

4. The Psalmist declared that God is King of all the earth and King over the nations. How does knowing this have an effect on the way you think about the problems of earth and the problems among nations around the world today?

5. Think about three large problems you face today. If you do not face any personal problems, think about three large problems facing the nation and the world today. Pray to God as King, present these three problems to God, acknowledge his Lordship over all, and offer your praises to God.

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