

Commentary on Psalm 47:1-9

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Series*) for **October 24, 2010**, is from **Psalm 47:1-9**. Five **Questions for Discussion** follow the *Bible Lesson Commentary*. The **International Bible Lessons** can be read at: <http://internationalbiblelessons.com/>; new *International Bible Lessons* are also published each Saturday in [The Oklahoman](#) newspaper.

Psalm 47:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

We clap our hands when we want to show our appreciation to an individual or group that has done something exceptional or pleasing to us. In similar ways, all people should clap their hands in appreciation and praise to God for all God does and has done. We have also cheered people on toward the accomplishment of their goals. We want to cheer God on too, because we do sing songs of joy when we see others and God succeed in holy purposes.

2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

God deserves our praise and thanksgiving more than any other person or group of people no matter what their achievements. God is great. God is the great King over all the earth – not just over a nation or nations that have been conquered. God is King over all existence. God is Most High; there is no one higher than God, and God is awesome in moral character as well as in power. No one has greater moral purity and power than our holy God.

3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

The Israelites recognized that the Lord was the One who gave them victory over their enemies and the enemies of God. He subdued their enemies and put them under the power of his people, the Israelites as long as they submitted to God as their only Lord and King. He fought for the Israelites when they entered the promised land, and God helped them continually until they turned to the idol worship and immoral practices of their neighbors.

4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. **Selah**

Our heritage is what has gone before us and our families and how that heritage has had an effect on our lives. What we do will leave a heritage for those who follow us – our children, grandchildren, and perhaps for generations to come. The pride of Jacob was his children, and later the nation of Israel that God loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

When the Israelites traveled in the wilderness, a trumpet sounded to call them to assemble and become ready to follow the Lord in the pillar of fire, as they moved from place to place. When they entered the promised land, they blew the trumpet before the battle against the cities God told them to conquer, and God went before them to defeat their enemies as he had promised. They blew the trumpet and shouted, and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

God is King over all; and God led, fought for, and protected his people as the Almighty King over all. In addition to supernatural power, God can be absolutely trusted, for God is holy, loving, just, and merciful. Therefore, God is worthy to receive our praises. He is worthy for us to compose music to sing in praise him.

7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is more than a regional king, greater than a king over one nation, more mighty than a king that would go to battle to conquer the known world – as Alexander the Great tried to do. God is King over all the earth – over people, animals, animate and inanimate creation, over all that is in relation to Earth and the universe. He is worthy to receive our praise and the adoration of all peoples.

8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

God is involved specifically in and over the nations on Earth. God did not create the world and then sit back to see what would happen. God tends our world as a Master Gardener, watching over every person, the lilies of the field, and even the sparrow that falls to the ground. Concerned about small people and things, God rules over all the nations with a holy character and intention to do what is best in every situation – to work in history and in the lives of his people.

9 The 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.

When Jesus Christ came into the world, he broke down the wall of separation between Jews and non-Jews – enabling all who trust in him as Lord and Savior to know assuredly that they are God's people. The God of Abraham is our God, the One who shields and protects us from any and all evils that might try to separate us from his love and care; therefore, his people rejoice in God and highly exalt him.

Five Questions for Discussion

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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