

SBC – Dec. 4, 2022

Psalm 47 (NKJV) – “*The Great King Over All The Earth*”

Not everyone regards Psalm 47 as a Messianic Psalm and I will admit it is not as direct as others where we have NT Scripture directly tying back to it as a specific Messianic reference point.

However, this Psalm clearly looks forward to the time when the whole world will be in subdued to the divine King and as we jump forward to the NT we see this truth is clearly applied to the Lord Jesus Christ in reference to His Second Coming.

Slide # 1

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Revelation 19:16 (NKJV)

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

That fits the emphasis of Psalm 47.

As a Messianic Psalm – Psalm 47 looks forward to YHWH the Messiah as their King. It shows that His kingdom will be universal extending to the whole world.

The Scripture presents two basic kingdom aspects related to God. One is ever present and one is yet to come, one is universal, and one Messianic.

God is always sovereign. In the sense of sovereignty God is always on His throne and He ever rules over all the affairs and over every detail of life. As we often say, under the umbrella of God's sovereignty, He permits some things, He prevents some things, and He promotes some things. All things fit under one of these categories of permits, prevents, and promotes, but God is ever sovereign over it all.

In the sense of God's sovereign universal kingdom reign Daniel 4 repeatedly says “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men” (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32).

Slide # 2**Psalm 145:13 (NKJV)**

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion
endures throughout all generations.

Under the umbrella of God's sovereignty, the whole of history has been moving towards the future Messianic Kingdom. The overwhelming majority of kingdom references in the Bible are in reference to this literal Messianic kingdom in which the Messiah will literally come to earth to rule one day.

The kingdom of God is a major theme in Scripture that encompasses God's overall Master Plan. This theme is traced from Genesis to Revelation. And for this reason, "The Kingdom of God" has been called "the grand central theme of Scripture".

"The Bible is one book. Had we to give that book a title, we might with justice call it 'The Book of the Coming Kingdom of God'. This is, indeed, its central theme everywhere." – **Richard Mayhue**

Simply put, the Messianic kingdom prophesied in the OT is the same kingdom offered by Christ to Israel in the gospels and then referred to the NT epistles. The same Messianic kingdom prophesied in the OT sees fulfillment in the book of Revelation at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Messianic Kingdom is yet future and it will be brought in with the return of the Messiah at His second coming. It takes the Messiah to establish it and He will do this at His second coming.

People that think that they are bringing in the kingdom are sorely wrong – they have way to HIGH a view of themselves. Unless you are able to take the scroll (the title deed of the earth); unless you are then able to loose the 7 seals; unless you are able to send forth the 7 trumpet judgments and the climactic 7 bowl judgments as found in the book of Revelation – unless you are able to do that don't claim you are bringing in the kingdom – because this is what it will take.

ONLY the Messiah can bring in the kingdom and He will. Psalm 47 anticipates the celebration of the Messiah bringing in the kingdom.

Slide # 3

Psalm 47

“The Great King Over All the Earth”

- v. 1-4 – The Triumph of the King
- v. 5-7 – The Enthronement of the King
- v. 8-9- The Rule of the King

Psalm 47 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

This Psalm is attributed to the sons of Korah. There are 11 Psalms attributed to them (cf. Ps. 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, 87, 88). The sons of Korah were of the tribe of Levi. They were the descendants of Korah who conspired against Moses and Aaron who was then swallowed up by the earth in judgment because of his rebellion (Num. 16; 1 Chron. 6:16-48). His sons however were spared (Num. 26:11). They became prominent Levitical singers and worship leaders in Israel especially during the reigns of David and Solomon.

They also wrote Psalm 45, 46, 47, 48 which are all thematically linked. In Psalm 45 we have the marriage of the Messiah King. In Psalm 46 we are called to be still and know that He is God as He brings the whole world into submission. Then in Psalm 47 we have the grand ascent of the King to His throne and then Psalm 48 presents the glories of the city of the great King which is Jerusalem. So these 4 Psalms all tie together thematically.

Slide # 4

The Messianic Flow of Psalms 45-48

- Psalm 45 – The Wedding of Messiah-King
- Psalm 46 - He makes wars to cease
- Psalm 47 – He ascends the throne
- Psalm 48 – The city of the great King

1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Psalm 46 ends with an emphasis on being still before God as He subdues the world (Psalm 46:10). But now in Psalm 47:1 the call is to LOUDLY celebrate the King ascending His throne. The world will at this point have been put down and the King is now formally taking His place on David's throne in Jerusalem as He sets up His kingdom.

All the people of all the nations going into the kingdom will celebrate the enthronement of the King as expressed in clapping and shouting to God with the voice of triumph which is to say celebrating His triumph and the privilege of them to share in it. It will be a glorious occasion with thunderous applause and loud shouting as they laude the King ascending His throne in great glory.

Often the Jews would celebrate the enthronement of a new king in this fashion saying, "long live the king" while vigorously clapping their hands (cf. 1 Sam. 10:24; 2 Kg. 11:12-13, 20). But this celebration will eclipse them all in terms of celebratory exuberance and expression.

2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

This is what they are celebrating! LORD Most High is more literally YHWH most High. YWHH is God's sacred covenant name which has the idea of being unchanging and eternal. God in terms of His faithful character never changes – in terms of His attributes never changes. What God is He always has been and ever will be.

"**Most High**" is a title for the One true God of Israel as often noted in the OT Scriptures. It speaks of His sovereign power over the nations. This emphasis is notable – especially in Daniel and the Psalms.

Slide # 5

Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV)

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the **Most High** and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For **His dominion is an everlasting dominion**, And **His kingdom** is from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; **He does according to His will** in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. **No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"**

When it says He is “awesome” this is sometimes translated as “to be feared”. It suggests that He is to be reverently held in awe because of His greatness!

And then it says, “He is a great King over all the earth.” This is not a local situation. He is a great king in terms of His power and His reign over the entire earth. King is the idea of the one who rules with absolute authority and power.

Note this combination: This KING is great and He is great because He is the LORD Most High. This King is God! This is the Lord Jesus Christ Who ultimately is the Messiah King but He is also God. Here we have the combination of God and King which properly defines Jesus.

We see this repeatedly in the OT prophetic Scriptures.

Slide # 6

Jeremiah 23:5–6 (NKJV)

5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

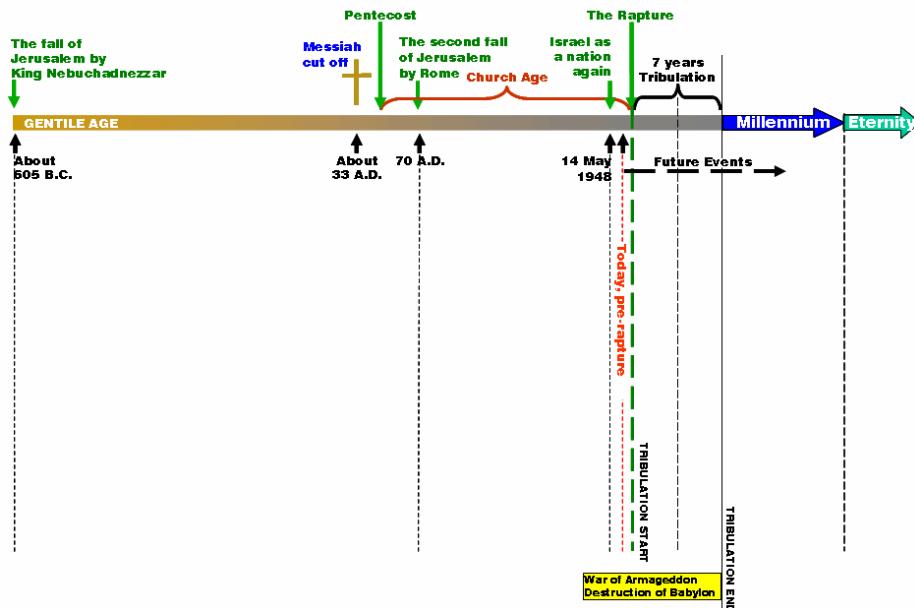
6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

At Christ’s first coming the Jews missed this but they should have seen it in their own Scriptures. The Messiah would be a combination of human (descendant of David); a King (who reigns) and YHWH God Himself – all in one person. Truly He is AWESOME!

3 He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.

The Messiah in His position of being LORD Most High will subdue the peoples under His chosen people Israel. Verse 4 clearly shows that Israel is in view here. Israel in the kingdom reign of the Messiah will have the most favored nations status.

During the Times of the Gentiles which exist from the time of the Babylonian Captivity until the Second Coming Israel was UNDER the nations and continually oppressed by the Gentile nations.

Slide # 7**Prophetic Timeline with Critical Historical Events**

So the Second Coming is going to change this arrangement. No longer will Israel be “under the nations”. No longer will Israel be the tail.

Slide # 8**Deuteronomy 28:13 (NKJV)**

13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

Alas, Israel did not obey and so God put them in the underneath position – under the Gentiles and they will remain there as Jesus said, “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” which will be at the Second Coming (Lk. 21:24).

This verse clearly shows that in view is the future reign of the Messiah because not all peoples are “under” Israel today – the nations are not in submission under their feet. This will only be fulfilled when Israel has finally come to repentance and Jesus then comes to deliver and restore them.

4 He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah

Israel is NOT a self-made people!

When we were in Israel our guide was a Jewish man and he kept saying all that they as the Jewish people had accomplished. Finally, our Christian guide said to him, “How about giving God some of the credit?” And he was silent. And this Jewish guide pretty much speaks for most of the Jews today. They don’t give God the credit.

But in truth Israel is a God-made nation. God chose Israel. God has preserved Israel. And God will ultimately restore Israel. Her inheritance is according to God’s choosing – according to what God has determined.

And at this point when Israel has finally come to repentance in the kingdom they will give Him all the glory and realize “He chose our inheritance for us”. They haven’t put themselves on top. This is God’s doing. He subdues the nations under their feet.

The inheritance here is thought to be the Promised Land that God promised to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What God has promised in the Abrahamic covenant will be fulfilled in the kingdom (cf. Gen. 12:1-7; 13:15; 17:8; Ps. 105:11; 135:12).

The “excellence of Jacob” can be translated as “the glory of Jacob”. Elsewhere God refers to Israel as His glory (cf. Isa. 46:13). God has chosen Israel’s destiny to ultimately bring glory to Himself and what God has provided for Israel will be her glory (so to speak). Some translate this as “the pride of Israel”.

And then verse 4 ends with “Jacob whom He loves”. The Nelson study Bible says, “To love means ‘**to make one’s choice in.**’”

Slide # 9

Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (NKJV)

7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

The why is best explained in the fact that God has chosen to love Israel just because of His sovereign prerogative. No other answer is specifically given. He has chosen to do so but the reason is not stated. When you are God you can do as you please and He does.

Slide # 10

Psalm 135:4–6 (NKJV)

4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

5 For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods.

6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

“**Selah**” denotes a pause – something like “stop and let that soak in.”

Verse 5 –7 anticipate the enthronement of the King when He comes at His Second Coming.

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

When Jesus takes the Davidic throne in Jerusalem it will be with great fanfare. He will assume the throne with great celebration and exuberance. People will be shouting, and the trumpet will be blasting!

Footnote: Many in the Church because of verse 5 and the language “has gone up” have tied this to the ascension of Christ back to heaven. However, some have tied this emphasis back to the ark of the covenant being brought up into the temple. However, because the entire context here relates to Messiah God assuming the Davidic throne at the time of His Second Coming that is my preferred view.

In this Psalm it probably expresses the more general idea of Yahweh ascending His earthly throne. - **HCSB**

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Singing in the Bible is often synonymous with JOY. This verse is expressing that on this occasion there will be super abounding JOY expressed in the unbounding SINGING of praises.

We often say that when God says something twice in Scripture that is a very strong emphasis. When it is expressed three times like “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD” it is expressed in the superlative (cf. Isa. 6:3). But I want you to note that for this GRAND and GLORIOUS occasion the emphasis is four-fold which is an extreme rarity in the Scriptures.

Slide # 11

Psalm 47:6 (NKJV)

Sing praises to God,
sing praises!
Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

That makes the point that this is a time of supreme superlative JOY and CELEBRATION! And the celebration is all about the enthronement of our God and King Who happens to be the Lord Jesus Christ. What a time this is going to be! Are you going to be there?

7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding.

The celebration is all about God being the King over all the earth. When it says, “Sing praises with understanding” the word “understanding” is the Hebrew word “Maschil”. This word is found in the title of 13 Psalms (32,45,44,45,52-55,74,78,68,69,142). Most believe this word denotes a song of contemplation – that is it is to be sung with deep consideration for what it means – that is with “understanding”.

Some take the view that it can also have the nuance of “skillful” and is therefore translated in the NASB as “Sing praises with a skillful psalm.”

Scholars debate the nuance here but to me the idea of singing praises here with understanding makes sense (no pun intended) to me. The exhortation then at this point is to sing with great appreciation of the TRUTH that our God-King has taken His throne to rule over all the earth. That deserves contemplative reflection and appreciation. It deserves worship “in spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:24). It is an awe inspiring reality!

The GREAT truth that the Jews could not see was that Jesus the Messiah was God come in the flesh. They just couldn't get beyond it.

When Jesus was brought up on trumped up charges before Pilate and Pilate really saw right through it saying, "I find no fault in Him" then the Jews responded in this way:

Slide # 12

John 19:7 (NKJV)

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

But NOW as Jesus has been highly exalted as the God-Man above all and the One before Whom every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord over all – this One will now be WORSHIPPED with proper UNDERSTANDING of WHO He truly is as the God-King.

Note this emphasis 3 times in this Psalm...

Slide # 13

v. 2 LORD Most High – great King

v. 6 Sing praises to God – Sing praise to our King

v. 7 God is the King

The reason this is such a grand occasion is because of WHO is being enthroned. It is the God-King who is a "great King" and who as the people of God is "our King".

And that brings us to the rule of the God-King in verses 8 and 9.

8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

Jesus will clearly be recognized as God in that day as He is by all true believers in the act of saving faith who truly believe on the LORD Jesus Christ. Jesus as God will be the undisputed ruler over all the nations.

When He comes the Second Time it won't be in a meek and mild way like it was the first time. The next time He is coming to take over in a BIG WAY.

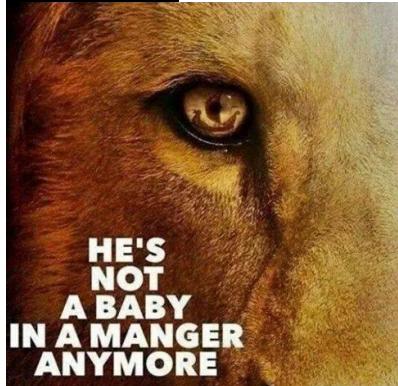
Slide # 14

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And **He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.**
He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

I know it's Christmas time – but Jesus is not a baby anymore – Just saying!

Slide # 15



The first time He came as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29) the next time He comes He is coming as the Lion of the tribe of Judah to rule and to reign (Rev. 5:5). Indeed, it will be: "God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne" and I take it this will be the throne of David which rightly belongs to the Messiah Who is the Son of David.

And from Jerusalem on the holy throne of David Jesus as God will rule the entire world (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Isa. 9:6-7; 24:23; Lk. 1:32-33).

Slide # 16

Isaiah 24:23 (NKJV)

23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the **LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem** And before His elders, gloriously.

Luke 1:32–33 (NKJV)

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.
33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

9 The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.

The Hebrew terms translated princes literally signifies “willing ones”...used to describe Messiah’s people.

— *The Moody Bible Commentary*

These are the people of the world who have been humbled under the great truth of the God-King Who is Jesus and who are now gathered in willing worship before Him. All these have become “the people of the God of Abraham”. All have come to know and appreciate the God of Abraham Who is the One true God of the Bible.

The God of Abraham is the God Who entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham and through this covenant God promised that in Abraham (ultimately through the Messiah Who would come through the line of Abraham) all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3).

The blessing of Abraham (justification by faith) comes to the Gentiles who come to faith in Christ as well (Gal. 3:16).

Slide # 17

Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

In a spiritual sense all people of saving faith are Abraham’s spiritual seed. In this sense Paul in Romans 4:16 says Abraham is the father of all who are people of faith.

Now here they are in the kingdom – the willing ones who have submitted to the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ – they are gathered all united together as the “people of the God of Abraham” – all sharing in the same saving faith and the blessings of it.

The word “shields” metaphorically speaks of those who are leaders of nations. Jesus comes as “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”. All of the world’s leaders left standing will be those who now belong to God and who are humbled before the Lord Jesus Christ WHO ALONE is now to “be greatly exalted”.

What a glorious Psalm about our coming God-King Who is Jesus. He will come in triumph (v. 1-4); He will come to be gloriously enthroned (v. 5-7); and He will come to rule over all the earth with all leaders subdued before Him (v. 8-9).

To those who believe in Him, the confidence that the truths of this psalm will be fulfilled brings comfort and encouragement during distressing times. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

There is a tremendous emphasis on PRAISE in Psalm 47 as the Messiah is celebrated as the God-King Who has come to reign. There is a very special praise word that I think is often used lightly which is really a form of taking the Lord’s name in vain if properly understood.

I am talking about the most HIGH praise word “Hallelujah”. This word in Hebrew literally means “praise YHWH”. Hallel means praise and Yah means God and the joining of these two words is Hallelujah.

This praise Word is saved for the Second Coming of Jesus.

The creation of the world was an incredible occasion, and the angels sang for joy, but it is not recorded that they used the word “Hallelujah” (cf. Job 38:7). The children of Israel in the Exodus sang exuberantly at God’s deliverance, but no mention of them using the word “Hallelujah” (Ex. 15). When Solomon completed the temple it was a time of great celebratory worship but no mention of them using the climactic praise word “Hallelujah” (cf. 1 Kg. 8). At the birth of Christ the angels burst out in praise to God but no mention of the word “Hallelujah” (Lk. 2:8-14). At the resurrection of Christ there was exuberant joy and celebration but no mention of the word “Hallelujah”.

It's as if God saved this word “Hallelujah” for the grand and glorious occasion of Christ’s second coming as He comes to reign in power and glory as the God-King Who rules over all. We are first introduced to this word in the book of Revelation in the second coming chapter of Rev. 19 where it is found 4 times in Rev. 19:1-6.

Slide # 18**Revelation 19:1–3 (NKJV)**

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “**Alleluia!** Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”

3 Again they said, “**Alleluia!** Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

Slide # 19**Revelation 19:4–6 (NKJV)**

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! **Alleluia!**”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “**Alleluia!** For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”

It's Christmas time and we commonly sing the song "Joy to the World" and that is fine but we should sing it with meaning. Isaac Watts wrote this song in 1719 and it is really a song about Christ's second coming and as such is a fitting song that echoes the spirit of Psalm 47. Selective parts of the song go like this:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns

And the song ends with...

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

And indeed they will! It will be the climactic time of Hallelujah celebration by all God's people. Indeed, we have a lot to look forward to as we anticipate "Joy to the World" in the coming of the God-King Who comes to rule!