



BALM PSALMS: PSALM 47

Community Group Study Guide Week of July 11, 2021

Introduction

- Jesus Christ is the greatest leader in history. It only took Him 36 months to flip the world upside down. Furthermore, He used 12 ordinary men to continue his ministry, nominally or fully supported by over 2 billion people today. How did He have such an impact? He inspired people. How did He inspire people? He served them. The King of Kings led by service and sacrifice, and we are to follow Him in his footsteps, even to the death, like the apostles. Where He reigns there is true peace and true freedom.

1. God is King Over Everything

- Context: Psalms 46-48 emphasize that God is king over everything, and great in all of His works. Following Him is not a preference. It's something that we do wholeheartedly as his followers. Even if we don't acknowledge His kingship, it doesn't rid us of the fact and reality that He is reigning.
- To whom is this message addressed? Everybody (v1-2, 7, 8). It doesn't matter where someone is from, what they do, what they think, God is king over everyone (and everything).
- How we feel about the fact of God's kingship over all of creation reveals what our standing is before Him. If it irks you, you should lay down your arms, receive the amnesty that He offers to you and ask for forgiveness.
- This psalm teaches us that we should be excited or "pumped up" about the fact that God is King.
- The context of this psalm is the moment when a conquering king arrives to meet a people whom he has freed. It is a celebratory moment. It is similar to the moment when David tried to bring the ark to of God to the city of Jerusalem in 2 Sam. 6:12-23. At such a moment, David is inspired to worship God with all his might. We should be inspired to worship God similarly with all of our might. God approves of David's emotion in his worship of Him and disproves of Michal's concern for dignity.

2. Therefore, Sing to the King

- We should worship with all of the "might" that we have. This passage calls us to shout, clap and sing.
- Clapping is appropriate during gathered worship as it expresses gladness, appreciation and enthusiasm. Furthermore, it appeals to the times when a conquered people would gather before the conquering king, lay their weapons down, open their hands in submission, and clap.
- V2: We worship the Most High God because He is awesome/awe-inspiring and eternal.
- We should think about the powerful kingdoms, empires, nations, and tycoons of financial power that have fallen since the coming of Jesus Christ, and compare their current influence to that of Christ.
- People currently in power have temporary control and influence, all allotted by God, but it is only temporary. They will lose it (most likely even while still alive), and will have to answer to Jesus, the judge, when they die.
- We worship Jesus because He is both a merciful and just king.
- V3-4: God could "whack" us at anytime, as our holy creator and king, but He chooses to be merciful to his people. Though we reject Him and criticize Him rebelliously, He compels us, pursues us, provides for us, and protects us in order to bring us to the position of wanting to be in peaceful relationship with Him. This should make us want to sing (like we do when we're in love).
- Many attend our church and other churches just to hear the sermon, but that is wrong. Appreciation and understanding of theology should lead to doxology. Understanding of Scripture should lead to worship and praise of God.
- Christians need to be careful not to separate submission to God as King with emotion or replace submission to God with emotion. Submission to our King leads to the right expression of emotion.
- When it's hard to worship, we need to remember that it's ok to express our grief and lament (like the psalmists), but we also need to pursue worship. Feelings of worship follow actions of worship. In all seasons, Christians sing because we can and because we should.

3. (Who?) All Creatures of Our God and King

- Who should rejoice and sing? All creatures, everybody (v8-9).
- These verses show the fulfillment of what God promised to Abraham (all the families of the earth shall be blessed, and he would be the ancestor of a multitude of nations). In order to accomplish this, God sent His son to be of God who takes away the sins of the world, who rose on the third day in order to rule over everybody and everything. All who place their faith in Him are granted citizenship in His kingdom and have all of his power and authority working for them.
- Christians need to have a greater vision of Christ, and expand it to include the promises that He will come in

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that God is King over everyone and everything.

Heart

To trust that God is both a merciful and just king.

Hands

To repent of sin, set up our lives in order to be of greater service to His kingdom, and worship Him with all our might.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids' Summer Nights:

Registration is now open for kids ages 4-11 to attend our free, weeklong VBS program this summer! You can register your child(ren) or sign up to volunteer [here](#).

The next **Membership 101 Class** will be held on **July 18 at 1PM** in the temple basement. Sign up here: https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/membership?mc_cid=f7d73f348a&mc_eid=83151d322f

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

judgement as a king, conquer all of his enemies, and gather His people in his city, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 11:15-18)

- We need to see that we can be willful, grateful and humble citizens of His kingdom or rebellious, angry enemies. We're either under his foot (like the conquered kings who were under Joshua's) or in his kingdom. We bow the knee to Him or He will make us bow the knee.
- Once we become Christian, we have marching orders from the king (Acts 1:6-11, Matt. 28:16-20).
- We shouldn't just love singing to our king, but we should love to see people proclaim their salvation in Him.
- Revelation 7:9-10 shows us that Christ is worthy of our service, sacrifice and singing.

Read Psalm 47.

1. Can somebody take a moment to recall some of the ways that Pastor Jan contextualized this psalm?
2. Why might it be difficult for people in our context and age to connect with this psalm that commands Christians to clap, shout, and sing praises to God their King?
3. One of the clear messages of this song is that God is king over everybody and everything. How does this declaration make you feel?
4. How does thinking about Jesus as King inspire a Christian to worship?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is both a merciful and just king?
6. What does 2 Samuel 6:12-23 teach us about caring too much about preserving our dignity before others in worship?
7. This psalm tells us to clap, shout and sing in our worship of Jesus. Does it incline you to consider making changes to the way that you engage in worship at a Sunday service?
8. What are some ways that people improperly set boundaries between emotion and submission to God in the Christian life and worship?
9. What are the basic marching orders that ALL Christians are called to follow after receiving amnesty from Christ the King?
10. How would you describe the joy that you have when you find out about people receiving Christ as their Savior and Lord?