

Rabbi's Reflections - Monday, February 16, 2026
Shalom {{firstName}},

Psalms

Psalm 47:1-4(1-3) – Part 1

Psalm 47:1(1) For the music director, a psalm for the sons of Korah. 2 Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of joy! 3(2) For Adonai Elyon is awesome, a great King over all the earth. 4(3) He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

Here is another Psalm in the series by the sons of Korah. This one has also been put to music in English by Joel Chernoff (Lamb II). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwoSmyGJS9A> Enjoy! Once again, we have a four verse stanza that ends with “Selah,” meaning “take a moment and meditate on that.”

There is a subtle play on words here. The Psalmist is using two similar but distinctly different Hebrew words to play off each other. The last word of verse two (translated “joy”) is “Rinah” (Resh-Nun-Hey) meaning, joyful, gladness and shout for joy! Then four words later (at the end of the first phrase of verse 3) is another word, “Norah” (translated “awesome”), taken from Yareh (Yud-Resh-Aleph) meaning, be afraid, dread, or to frighten. If God is “terribly frightening” why should we “shout for joy?”

Rabbi Trail: Both “Rinah” and “Norah” have the Resh and Nun in reverse order from each other. Because they mean the opposites of “Joyful” and “Fearful,” they play off each other in both sound and in meaning. End RT.

The answer is in verse 4, where we read. God has chosen for us what He calls “the inheritance of Jacob.” And here’s the best part, God does this out of His love for us. Are you ready for more good news (worth shouting about)?

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time came, God sent out His Son, born of a woman and born under law— 5 to free those under law, so we might receive adoption as sons. 6 Now because you are sons, God sent the Ruach of His Son into our hearts, who cries out, “Abba!

Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a son—and if a son, also an heir through God.

The “inheritance” of God’s children is nothing less than the Kingdom of God. Wherever God is King (enthroned on high), that is His Kingdom. Now that is certainly worthy of our shout of gladness. Let the enemies of God be afraid, while the people of God rejoice. Isaiah tells the whole story....

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and dry land will be glad. The desert will rejoice and blossom like a lily. 2a,c It will blossom profusely, will rejoice with joy and singing.... They will see the glory of Adonai, the splendor of our God. 4 Say to those with anxious heart, “Be strong, have no fear!” Behold, your God! Vengeance is coming! God’s recompense—it is coming! Then He will save you. 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing. For water will burst forth in the desert and streams in the wilderness.

If you know the Lord, this makes you joyful and unafraid. Shalom shalom.

Daily Bread, reading plan by Lars Enarson (<https://www.thewatchman.org/>)
Mon 16-Feb-2026 29th of Sh'vat, 5786
Ex 25:17-30 2 Ki 14 Ps 139 Jn 12:20-50 (Tit 1)