

God is Enthroned

Psalm 47, 48 and Matthew 18:1-4

Part 1: "The Kingdom of God" Pastor Scott Arnold

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Introduction: God's Kingdom is Infinite and Intimate

I. God's Throne is Exalted (Psalm 47:1-9)

A. Adoration before God's Throne (1-2)

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

¹ *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.*

B. Thanksgiving before God's Throne (3-4)

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

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

C. Praise before God's Throne (5-9)

1. God is present (5) ⁵ *God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.*

2. God is praised in songs (6-7)

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

⁷ *For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.*

3. God is proclaimed as reigning (8-9)

⁸ *God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.*

⁹ *The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.*

II. God's Reign is Manifest (Psalm 48:1-14)

A. In His Holy City (1-3)

¹ *Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. ² It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth.*

Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

³ *God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.*

B. In the strength of His Holy City (4-8)

⁴ *When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,*

⁵ *they saw [her] and were astounded; they fled in terror.*

⁶ *Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labor.*

⁷ *You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.*

⁸ *As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever. Selah*

C. In His Temple in the Holy City (9)

⁹ *Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.*

D. Throughout the Earth and to all people (10)

¹⁰ *Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.*

E. In the New Jerusalem and Israel. (11-14)

¹¹ *Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments.*

¹² *Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers,*

¹³ *consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation.*

¹⁴ *For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

III. God's Kingdom Humbles Us. (Matthew 18:1-4)

A. God humbles the proud (1-2)

¹ *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a little child and had him stand among them.*

B. God changes the humble (3)

³ *And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

C. God rewards faith and humility (4)

⁴ *Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the Messiah King

Questions:

1. What makes worship more of a "Heart" and "Soul" attitude than simply a "physical" posture or activity?
2. How does trusting that God is enthroned, and Jesus being with God and being with you, give hope and perspective?
3. Why is humility before God important?
4. Give a few examples of how God lifts up the humble and humbles those who exalt themselves.