

Joyous celebrations often accompanied a king upon his return from battle. Under King David's reign, the nation of Israel advanced through mighty military conquests. Jerusalem was rebuilt with splendor and glory. And with great joy, dancing, and celebration, the king returned the ark of the covenant to the city of David (1 Chronicles 15). Anointed by God, King David brought hope, unity, and vision to a renewed nation.

Psalm 47 continues that prophetic rejoicing in the return of the King of kings. This psalm was intended to be sung as a glorious declaration of God's reign, rule, and exaltation over all the earth: "For God is the King of all the earth" (vs.7). He subdues nations and people under His feet (vs. 3).

The psalm begins with clapping and cries of joy throughout the nations and continues by acknowledging that "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne" (vs. 8). The hope of any nation comes through embracing the King of kings—Jesus the Messiah—as the One who reigns in complete victory.

Let's pray for the nations to awaken to the glorious hope of our coming King.

1 Praise God that He is the Lord Most High and "the great King over all the earth." Thank Him for His faithfulness to rule and reign over the nations (Psalm 47:2).

2 Nations may rage against God's sovereign rule. But we can praise Him as the God who subdues nations and determines their destinies. Declare your trust in Him even as darkness seems to envelop many nations of the earth (Psalm 47:3).

3 Ask God to renew your faith to pray for the nations, even if you feel like Habakkuk when he cried out, "How long, LORD, must I call for help?" Pray that you will not waver in your prayers for God's reign throughout the earth (Habakkuk 1:2).

4 Pray for God's justice in the nations, even when you know "destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds." Pray that you will not fear an unstable world but will instead believe that justice always prevails (Habakkuk 1:3).

5 Pray for God to do "something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." God can use evil regimes to accomplish His purposes, so pray that you will have vision for the nations that goes beyond what you can see right now (Habakkuk 1:5).

6 Pray for a fresh move of God throughout the nations, knowing that His appointed time may linger but "it will certainly come and will not delay." Pray for His righteousness and justice to reign in your own nation (Habakkuk 2:3).

7 Pray that even now "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." Pray for an awakening to the glory of

God's reign and rule over all the nations (Habakkuk 2:14).

8 Pray that the nations of the earth will acknowledge the holiness of God and their desperate need for Him. May "all the earth be silent before him" as He makes His power and presence known (Habakkuk 2:20).

9 God spoke—and the nations of the earth were created! Pray that all the earth will fear the Lord and all the people of the world will revere Him as their true King (Psalm 33:8-9).

10 Nations may rebel against God, but "the LORD foils the plans of nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples." Pray that nations will be awakened to their need to be in alignment with God's truths (Psalm 33:10).

11 Pray for the Spirit to move throughout the nations with new awareness that "the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." Pray that the leaders of every nation will humble themselves and seek God for His purposes (Psalm 33:11).

12 Pray for your own nation to embrace the promise that "blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD." Pray for leaders to recognize their desperate need for dependence upon God and surrender to His rule and reign (Psalm 33:12).

13 Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders of the nations and all who surround them and give input into governance. A nation will fall "for lack of guidance...but victory is won through many advisers" (Proverbs 11:14).

14 Ask God to soften the hearts of leaders toward the gospel and the truth of God's Word. "In the LORD's hand the king's heart is a stream of water," so pray that leaders will acknowledge and surrender to the one true King (Proverbs 21:1).

15 All authorities that exist on the earth "have been established by God." Pray the rulers, kings, and presidents will humble themselves and recognize God's supreme authority over them (Romans 13:1).

16 Pray for the day when "all the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him." Pray that men, women, and children in every nation will awaken to their need for Jesus (Psalm 22:27).

17 Pray that people throughout the earth will hear the gospel and know that "dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations." Pray that even countries closed to the gospel will be saturated with the truth of Jesus (Psalm 22:28).

18 Pray that nations will recognize the need to humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways. Ask God to renew His healing of the nations through forgiveness of sins and restoration of broken places (2 Chronicles 7:14).

19 God created all nations to inhabit the earth and "he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands." Pray that nations will recognize God's sovereignty over them and allow the spread of the gospel without opposition (Acts 17:26).

20 Scripture declares that God created nations and boundaries "so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him." Pray for a move of God's Spirit that stirs people to seek Christ and find salvation and healing through Him (Acts 17:27).

21 God "makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them." Pray that even the nations that refuse to acknowledge God will awaken to His power and rule over them. Pray that nations will prosper because they honor God (Job 12:23).

22 Pray for the greatest missions movement ever to arise, and especially for this next generation to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

23 Pray that people of the nations will be taught to obey everything Jesus has commanded. Pray for boldness for God's people to take the gospel into every unreached nation. Pray that God's Word will

soon be translated into every language (Matthew 28:20).

24 Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to compel the Church to take the gospel "to the ends of the earth." Pray that the Church is awakened to the urgency to pray and speak the truth of Jesus throughout every city and nation (Acts 1:8).

25 Pray that the Lord of the harvest will "send out workers into his harvest field." Ask God to use His people, the translation of His Word, social media, and any means possible to awaken the nations to Him (Matthew 9:38).

26 Because "God so loved the world" and gave His Son, believers in Jesus in every nation can have eternal life. Pray for an awakening to His love with hope in the name of Jesus (John 3:16).

27 Pray that the Church will embrace her role as a light to the nations, that "salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Ask the Spirit to inspire God's people to pray for breakthrough in even the most resistant nations (Isaiah 49:6).

28 Pray for people in closed Muslim nations to have supernatural encounters with Jesus through dreams, visions, and sharing of the gospel, that they might know He is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

29 Pray that your church will intercede with hope that one day "every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord." Ask God to inspire persistent prayer in believers on behalf of the nations (Philippians 2:10-11).

30 Praise God that one day we will witness "a great multitude ... from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." Ask God to fill you with joyful anticipation of eternal worship with all peoples of the earth (Revelation 7:9).

31 Pray for an awakening in the nations that raises up voices across the globe crying out together, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Declare that He is King of all the earth (Revelation 7:10).