

# THE KING OF ALL THE EARTH

## Psalm 47

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Victoria**—longest British reign—63 years, 216 days
2. **Elizabeth II**—her great-great granddaughter
  - Will surpass it on 9 September 2015—age 89 years and 141 days
  - 60<sup>th</sup> English/British monarch—since 827—1188 years
  - 27 May 2024—age 98 years, 36 days—would surpass Louis XIV

3. **Louis XIV—the ‘Sun King’**

- a. Ruled 72 years, 110 days—ended 1715—longest European reign
- b. Wealthiest—most powerful European monarch—“I am the state!”
- c. Quoted Psalm 70:1 on his deathbed—age 77

**Ps 70:1**—*O God, hasten to deliver me; Lord, hasten to my help!*

- d. Funeral—Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris
  - Dark—golden coffin—dark—only one candle
  - **“Only God is great”**—**John Baptiste Massillon** [seminary prof, court preacher]

### II. TEXT

**1** *O clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy.* **2** *For the LORD Most High is to be feared, a great King over all the earth.* **3** *He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet.* **4** *He chooses our inheritance for us, the glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.* **5** *God has ascended with a shout, the LORD, with the sound of a trumpet.* **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 praises with a skillful psalm.* **8** *God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.* **9** *The princes of the people have assembled themselves as the people of the God of Abraham, for the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted.*

### III. GOD IS THE GREAT KING

#### A. GOD IS SOVEREIGN LORD

1. Creator of all the earth—He made everything—from nothing
2. Gave dominion to Adam (man) over all creatures—**Gen 1:28**
  - Subdue and rule over fish—birds—every living creature that creeps

- But God did *not* give him dominion over humans!
3. God—is the King of Glory—the Lord of hosts!

**Ps 24:7,10**—*Lift up your heads, O gates and be lifted up. O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! . . . Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the king of glory.*

## B. LOST VISION OF GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

1. Cain built the first city—Enoch—**Gen 4:17**
2. Nimrod—builder of cities—**Gen 10**
  - Great-grandson of Noah—through Ham and Cush
  - First mention of ‘kingdom’—**Gen 10:10**
  - Began kingdom with cities: Babel, Erech, Accad, Calneh—Nineveh and Assyrian cities
3. Tower of Babel—defiance of God’s sovereignty—**Gen 11**

## C. GOD’S KINGSHIP OVER ISRAEL

### 1. GOD USED ISRAEL—TO MANIFEST HIS UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY

- a. Made Abram a **great nation**—to bless all nations
- b. Named Jacob ‘Israel’—at Peniel—meaning ‘**God Prevails**’
- c. Manifested sovereignty and power—by delivering Israel from Egypt
  - o Plagues—Red Sea—defeat of Sihon and Og—caused fear among nations
- d. Established **theocracy**—with separation of church and state
  - o Moses—prophetic and civil leader
  - o Aaron—priestly and religious leader
- e. Biblical attribution to God’s kingship

#### 1. In Torah—is rare

- **Ex 15:28**—*The Lord will reign forever*
- Proclamation by pagan prophet—**Balaam**

**Nu 23:21**—*The Lord their God is with them; the shout of the **King** is among them!*

#### 2. In Psalms—is common

- **Psalm 48:1**—Jerusalem—called “the city of the **Great King**”
- Quoted by Jesus in Sermon on Mount—**Mt 5:35**

## D. CHANGE TO HUMAN KINGSHIP

## 1. PROPHETIC INSTRUCTIONS—Dt 17:14-17

- In Canaan—you will ask for a human king—whom God will select
- Do not allow a foreigner to rule over you!

## 2. FULFILMENT AND WARNING—I Sam 8

### a. He will take—take—take—take

- o Your sons—for his army and farm his land
- o Your daughters—for perfumers, bakers, and cooks
- o Your choice fields, vineyards, groves—and give them to his servants
- o A tenth of your grain—and vineyards—and flocks
- o Your servants and donkeys

### b. You will become his servants

### c. Regret

**I Sam 8:18**—*Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day*

### d. Not God's will for Israel

- o They were rejecting God as their king—I Sam 10:19
- o **Hos 13:11**—*I gave you a king in my anger, and took him away in my wrath*

## 3. HUMAN KINGS OVER ISRAEL

### a. **Jewish** rule

#### 1. United kingdom—Saul, David, Solomon—ruled

#### 2. Divided kingdoms

- 39 kings and 1 queen—20 Judah—19 Israel
- Only 8 were good—in Judah

### b. **Non-Jewish** rule

- o Assyrian—over Israel—722 BC
- o Babylonian—over Judah—587 BC
- o Persian—539 until 331 BC
- o Hellenistic—331 until 142

### c. Jewish rule—renewed under Maccabees—142-63 [Hasmonean dynasty]

### d. Roman rule—since 63 BC

## E. RETURN OF THE GREAT KING

### 1. PROPHESED

**Is 9:6-7**—*For a child is born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord o hosts will accomplish this.*

## 2. EXPECTATIONS—‘SON OF DAVID’—IN JESUS’ DAY

- 4 healing occasions—Jesus identified as Son of David—[e.g. blind Bartemaeus—**Mk 10**]
- Triumphal Entry—proclamation at triumphal entry—**Mt 21**
- Children shouting in Temple—**Mt 21**
- Jesus’ refutation—Son of Man *cannot* be just literal Son of David—**Mk 12**

## 3. JESUS REJECTED LIMITED KINGSHIP

- In answering Pilate’s question—“*Are you King of the Jews?*”
  - a. Synoptic Gospels
    - **Mk 15** and **Lk 23**—Jesus answered— “*You say so*”
    - **Mt 27**—Jesus emphatically declared (in opposition)—“*You say so*”
  - b. John 18
    - First deflected question—“*Who told you so?*”
    - Later said—“*You say so—but my purpose in coming is to witness to the truth.*”

## 4. JESUS ASSERTED KINGSHIP/SOVEREIGNTY—AS SON OF MAN

- o Rule is universal—spiritual—eschatological—**Mt 25**

**Mt 25:31-34**—*But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the **kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

## 5. ENTHRONEMENT AND WITNESS

- a. **Mk 16:19**—Jesus was taken up into heaven—and He sat at the right hand of God
- b. **Acts 7:55**—Stephen witnessed Christ—standing at the right hand of God

## 6. RENEWED AFFIRMATION OF GOD’S KINGSHIP—IN CHRIST

- *Now unto the King, eternal . . . God only wise*—**I Tim 1:17**
- *God, the blessed and only Ruler, the **King of kings** and Lord of lords*—**I Tim 6:15**

- *King of saints*—Rev 15:3

## IV. GOD'S KINGDOM IS GREAT—OVER ALL THE EARTH

### A. ORIGINAL UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY

Ps 24:1—*The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it.*

### B. ISRAEL AS GOD'S KINGDOM

#### 1. TWO PERCEPTIONS

a. **By outsiders**—non-Jews—Jehovah was just *their* cultic God

b. **By Jews**—Jehovah was supreme God over all—**Psalm 47**

##### 1. His universal reign

- v2—*great King over all the earth*
- v7—*King of all the earth*
- v8—*God reigns over the nations*

##### 2. Universal submission

- v9 *The princes of the people have assembled themselves as the people of the God of Abraham for the shields of the earth belong to God*

a. Shields—represent protection and identity (trophies of war)

b. Irony—first mention of 'shield' is **Gen 15:1**

- **Gen 15:1**—*Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you . . . .*
- Just after Abram defeated 4 kings [first mentioned in Bible] and recovered Lot

#### 2. PROBLEM WITH JEWISH PERCEPTION

a. Limited—cultic view—of Jehovah

1. Saw God as *their* God/defender/protector—**Psalm 47**

- v3—He subdues people to *Israel*
- v4—Focus is on *inheritance of Jacob*
- v9—People assemble as the people of the *God of Abraham*

2. In Jesus' day—they saw Israel as the **end—goal**—of God's blessing

b. Did not understand God's will—to *use* Israel—as a **means**

- To bless all nations—**Gen 12**
- To call all nations—to His glory—[as king]

**Is 66:18**—*the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.*

## B. RESTORATION OF GOD'S KINGDOM

### 1. INAUGURATED BY JESUS

- a. He **announced** it—**Mt 5/Mk1**—His basic message:

*The time has come. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News!*

- b. He **defined** it—**Jn 18**—before Pilate

**Jn 18:36**—*My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.*

- c. He **secured** it—by His atoning death on the cross

**Jn 19:30**—*It is finished!*

### 2. EMPOWERED AND REVEALED AS UNIVERSAL—BY HIS SPIRIT—AT PENTECOST

**Acts 2:17, 21**—*And it shall be in the last days, God says, 'That I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind . . . And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

### 3. CONSUMMATED—WITH HIS RETURN

- **Mk 13:26**—*At that time, men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory*
- **Mt 14:62**—*I AM [the Christ], and you will see the Son of an sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

## V. OUE GREAT MISSION

### A. THE CHURCH—AS THE 'NEW ISRAEL'

#### 1. NOT AN EARTHLY 'NATION'—our kingdom is not of this world

- o Not establishing feudal fiefdoms
- o Not serving our own interests

#### 2. LEARN FROM OLD ISRAEL

- o We are an instrument/means—not the sole end of God's grace

#### 3. OUR MISSION

- o Proclaim **universal** kingship of God—through Lordship of Christ

### B. OUR ROLES AS KINGDOM PEOPLE

#### 1. HERALDS—MESSENGERS

- o Tell the 'good news'—go into all the world—and tell the gospel to all creation

#### 2. COMMISSIONERS—OFFICERS OF STATE

- o Make disciples—baptizing and teaching them what Jesus has taught us
- 3. AMBASSADORS—WITH A PORTFOLIO
  - o Minister the word—of reconciliation
- 4. DOOR-KEEPERS—like black-rod
  - o Usher people—into His majestic/holy presence
  - o Close the gap—between them and God
- 5. SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS
  - a. Peace-makers
  - b. Not ‘fighters’—against other people—but only against super-human powers of evil
    - Gospel armor is defensive—*except* the sword—the word
  - c. Without disputing and grumbling among ourselves—**Ph 2:14**
    - Why should we fight over the Bible?—with casualties!!!
  - d. Our goal is not—to defeat our enemies
    - But to reconcile God’s enemies with Him

### C. A GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY

**Mk 13:32-36**—*About that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son of Man, but only the Father. Be ready. Be alert. You do not know when that time will come. It is like a man going away. He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house will return, whether in the evening or midnight, or when the rooster crows or at dawn. If He comes suddenly, do not let Him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone. Watch.*

## VI. HOW WE SHOULD PRAY

- ❖ **DRAW CLOSE TO GOD—SPECIAL ACCESS—TO “OUR FATHER”**
- ❖ **INTERCEDE URGENTLY FOR AND WITH EVERYONE WE KNOW**
- ❖ **PRAY FOR GOD’S PEACE UPON OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS**
- ❖ **THAT WE WILL BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE AMIDST TURMOIL**
- ❖ **THAT OUR WITNESS WILL BE GODLY AND DIGNIFIED**
- ❖ **THAT WE WILL FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM CHRIST AS THE TRUTH**
- ❖ **THAT WE WILL EFFECTIVELY RECLAIM THE LOST**
- ❖ **THAT THE FATHER WILL SHOW HIMSELF IN A MIGHTY WAY**

- ❖ FOR **HUMILITY**—NOT TO US, O LORD—THAT WE **GLORIFY** HIM ABOVE ALL
- ❖ THAT WE WILL STAND **BOLDLY** FOR HIS SUPERNATURALITY
- ❖ **TESTIFY** TO HIS HOLINESS—**BE HOLY** LIKE HIM—HELP HIM **CLOSE THE GAP**
- ❖ URGE OTHERS TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD—FOR PROVISION—PROTECTION—AND SALVATION
- ❖ FOR **URGENCY** ABOUT CHRIST’S RETURN—BEING **READY** AND **WORKING**
- ❖ FOR **UNIVERSAL VISION** OF HIS KINGSHIP/KINGDOM—NOT PETTY/PAROCHIAL

## VI. INVITATION

### BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,  
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
 Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
 High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
 May I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heaven’s sun!  
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
 Still be my vision, O ruler of all.