

Praise the King

Sermon Text: Psalm 47

Study Texts: Psalm 97

Sermon Recap: The main idea of this week's sermon is: Rejoice in the Most High Who chooses our Heritage and reigns over the nations. Take time before your growth group to review the key points you noted from today's sermon.

Sermon Connection: Psalm 47 is a magnificent text of Scripture where God is affirmed as King over His people. And not only is God the King, He is King over all the earth, over all other kings. Psalm 97 is similar in its theme and is a part of a group of Psalms, Psalms 95-99, which celebrate Yahweh's Kingship over all. In Psalm 97, we find the Psalmist expressing Yahweh's kingship over all creation and over all evil. The Psalmist celebrates that God will subdue all evil and wickedness and all evildoers. But, as He does, the Psalmist also notes how God's defeat of evil includes God's preservation of His people, the righteous. And so just as Psalm 47 celebrates the Most High God Who chooses our Heritage and reigns over the nations, so too does Psalm 97.

Lesson Plan

Lesson Goal: to see that God's rule over all ensures the defeat of evil and the salvation of the righteous

Lesson Points: working through the Psalm verse by verse

The Context: This Psalm belongs to a group of Psalms (93-100) united by a common theme: Yahweh's rule over the earth. In these Psalms, we see that Yahweh is King over all and is to be trusted to deliver His people while also judging the sinful and wicked nations who have rejected Him.

Psalm 97

- What does the phrase, “*The Lord reigns...*” mean, and how does this influence and shape the outlook/worldview of the Christian?
- Verse 2 presents an image of God surrounded in thick darkness. How does this connect with the imagery Exodus 19-20? What is the imagery’s purpose?
- In vv. 3-5, the Psalmist uses a series of images to show Yahweh’s power and rule over the earth. What do these images communicate about God’s power?
 - Take some time to meditate on these verses personally. How should these images affect our view of God and His view of sin?
- What is the truth and reality we see in v. 6? How does this truth cause joy and hope in the people of God?
- What does v. 7 teach about those people/nations who persist in idolatry? What is idolatry?
 - How might idolatry be present in your own life? How does a right view of God’s hatred of idols help us to overcome idolatry?
- How do vv. 8-9 parallel the message of Psalm 47?
- How does v. 10 parallel the message of vv. 1-2?
- What is the reward for the people of God seen in vv. 11-12?

The Big Picture - Rejoicing in God

It is important for the people of God to take time to set their minds on the truths of Scripture. Psalms 47 and 97 are gifts to the people of God with this message: Rejoice in the Most High Who chooses our heritage and reigns over the nations. We are a people because God has saved us from our sin and brought us into His people. Furthermore, as He is forming us into a people for His own possession (1 Pt. 2:9), He is also, and at all times, King over all. He will judge the nations, He will deal with all wickedness and idolatry. He will bring peace and righteousness. Therefore the people of God can trust Him and rejoice. The people of God can “*Rejoice in the Lord...and give thanks to His holy Name.*”

Application Questions

- How are you rejoicing in God?
- In what ways are you teaching your family that God has chosen our heritage for us?
- How are you leading your family to embrace the rule of God over all things?
- In what ways are you rejoicing in God that is different from how a non-believer lives? How might you use this evangelistically?
- How is your growth group rejoicing in the rule of God over the nations? How might you all take this Psalm as motivation for community engagement and mission?