

The Voice of Triumph

By Steve Pruitt

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Psalms 47:1 NKJV

People render applause at a wide variety of venues. Applause is given for great speeches, heroic acts, and great performances at musical concerts, theatre plays and athletic events. In fact, standing ovations are not uncommon at such venues. Applause is often given out of respect for a persons rank or position. Though some might applaud just because it is expected, the majority applaud because they recognize the significance of an act or the tremendous talent of the performers. Still another reason people applaud is because an act or the person who renders the act meets their approval and the performance brings them joy.

New York City has long been famous for ticker tape parades where the term originated. Ticker tape was the term used for the paper which was used in the machines which provided stock market updates. Large amounts of this paper are thrown from the office building windows onto the parade participants. Such parades have been given in honor of victorious generals such as Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz. There is a section of lower Broadway, the street where the parades are held, that is often referred to as the “Canyon of Heroes.”

In reading the entirety of Psalm 47 one might conclude that such a triumphal procession was the context in which the psalm was written. The psalmist declares that God has subdued the peoples (nations) under their feet; he has extended their kingdom (inheritance) and has, himself, blown the trumpet of victory. The psalm might also allude to the prisoners of war when he mentioned that the “prince of people” have gathered with God’s people to acknowledge that the God of Israel is the true God. The shields spoken of in the psalm were most likely the shields of the defeated army brought home for display in the processional as spoils of war.

Too often we reserve our applause and shouts of joy for our favorite musicians, war heroes and athletic teams; however, God is much more worthy of our applause and shouts of triumph. Through his son, Jesus, he has defeated every enemy. By our claps of praise and shouts of joy we too declare our approval of Jesus’ victory. It’s time for the church to have a ticker-tape parade for the King of Kings who has won the ultimate victory. He is our ultimate hero.

When was the last time you gave God a standing ovation? When was the last time you acknowledged his triumph with a shout of joy?

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Scriptures for meditation:

Psalms 47:2-9

Psalms 66:1

Psalms 106:47

2 Corinthians 2:14