

Psalm 47:1

O clap your hands all you peoples! Shout unto God with a voice of triumph!

The Hebrew word *taga* goes beyond a mere clapping of the hands. It means to clatter, slap the hands together, clang an instrument, to drive a nail or tent-pin, a dart, to become bondsman by clasping hands. We often use clapping as a way of showing our approval or expressing our gratitude. In so doing we join ourselves to the subject of our expression. So as we clap to the Lord we join ourselves to him.

It is interesting that the sons of Korah (the author(s) of this psalm) give a command for **all** peoples to clap. The Hebrew word for people means a people as a congregated unit; specifically, a tribe as those of Israel; hence collectively troops or attendants; figuratively, a flock.

The exhortation to shout unto God in no way suggests a meager raising of the voice. The word means to split the ears with sound, shout for alarm or joy. The Hebrew word for triumph enforces that concept. It means a shrill sound, shout of grief or joy, gladness, proclamation. We find this kind of shouting by the children of Israel at the conclusion of their march around Jericho. Coupled with their obedience to God's instructions, their victory shout brought down the walls of the city and they plundered the enemies territory.

Maybe you have noticed the shout of a martial artist in a movie or the yelling of an advancing army. I believe two dynamics are in play. One the shout is meant to intimidate the opponent. The second is that the shout is a motivating force to move in for the victory. Thus, as we clap and shout unto God, we are not only applauding him for what he has done, we are also joining with him in advancement of his kingdom.

Scripture references:

Psalm 92:4:

For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

Psalm 106:47

Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise.

Psalm 65:13:

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Zephaniah 3:14

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Psalm 98:8

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord...

Isaiah 55:12

For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Psalm 67:3

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

Psalm 106:48

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, Amen! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117:1

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

Revelations 19:1

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude (much people in KJ) in heaven, saying, Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

Copyright © 2006 JustWorship.com
All rights reserved. Used by permission.