

A Coronation Song to Our King

Psalm 47 (Christ the King)

Every country has some form of a coronation celebration. What that grand ceremony looks like in each place is probably going to be influenced a lot by the culture of that country, but the basic principles of a coronation remain the same. The next leader of the country is publicly “crowned” to carry out their appointed role as king or queen. Coronation Day might include a gathering of people to witness an oath of office being taken. A crown is placed on the head to symbolically show he or she has ruling authority. A celebration of some kind with music and dancing probably follows the ceremony. Coronation Day often is a grand celebration for the country and its people.

Even though our country is a democracy and not a monarchy, you still could say we have our own version of a “Coronation Day”. We just call it Inauguration Day. The president-elect publicly takes the oath of office and is officially given the title of “President”. That inauguration is typically followed by the Inaugural Ball, a celebration of what just happened earlier in the day.

We may not know today for sure exactly who will be inaugurated as the next president of the earthly kingdom in which we live. Whoever it is, whether you voted for him or not, we do owe him our honor, respect, and obedience as someone God has placed over us. Yet no matter who is president of this country, we have a king who has been crowned as our glorious king.

Today on this last Sunday in the Christian church year, we rejoice in Christ the King. Psalm 47 is kind of like Christ’s coronation song as the psalm writer publicly declares the Savior’s kingship. He invites us to raise our voices in giving honor, glory, and praise to King Jesus. With that invitation to join in the coronation song, he declares to us the reason for our praise. **“All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God! Sing a loud song! Yes, the LORD Most High is awesome. He is the great King over all the earth! He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet. He chooses our inheritance for us. It is the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.” (vs. 1-4)**

Look at what Christ our King has done for his subjects, his people whom he loves. He subdued our enemies for us. He has overcome the enemy of sin and death. When Jesus suffered on the cross, he went out to battle sin. He endured the hell of God’s wrath, hell that we deserved taking the punishment of our sins on himself. He declared his work finished and then died. The king may have looked defeated looking like a casualty of war. Yet he proved his victory by crushing sin’s curse of death rising victoriously from the grave. Jesus is our King who subdued our enemies stripping them of any real power..

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 of his victory that subdued our enemies. **“Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other ruler and every other authority and power. For he must reign ‘until he has put all his enemies under his feet.’ Death is the last enemy to be done away with. Certainly, ‘he has put all things in subjection under his feet’. (15:24-27)** To be under one’s foot gives us the image of a victor with his feet on top of the enemy. They are unable to move. They are powerless and can do nothing to harm any more. In defeating sin and death by rising from the grave, he subdued our enemies stripping sin and death of their power. Under his feet, they are helpless to harm. He has won the victory and he gives us that victory. As we place our trust in him as our Savior, our Lord, and our King, his victory becomes our victory. Sin and death are subdued and placed under our feet powerless to harm us all because of Jesus. Through King Jesus’ victory, we are given the inheritance of glory, an inheritance he wants us to have all because he loves us.

When that work was done, King Jesus returned victoriously to his heavenly throne. The psalm writer said, **“God has ascended with a joyful shout. The Lord goes up with the sound of the ram’s horn.” (vs. 5)** Think back with me. Jesus’ work was done. He rose from the dead. His disciples thought he was going to bring about an earthly reign in an earthly kingdom, but Jesus had a different plan in mind. He sent the disciples out to proclaim his salvation to the ends of the earth. Then before their eyes, our King ascended into heaven disappearing from their sight to reign again on his throne in heaven, ruling over the whole world and promising to be with his subjects until the very end of the age. Jesus, our King is crowned not only as the King of our hearts who has won the victory for us. He is also crowned ruler over all the earth for the benefit of his subjects whom he loves. For that reign we praise him too!

“Make music for God! Make music! Make music for the king! Make music! For God is the King of all the earth. Make music for him with a wise song. God reigns as king over the nations. God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the people come together as the people of the God of Abraham. Yes, the shields of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted.” (vs. 6-9)

Thrones are a symbol of power and authority. When kings sit on their thrones, they are exercising their reign and rule over the people. A good king would make decrees and decisions that he felt were in the best interest of his kingdom and his people. Jesus reigns on his heavenly throne with all power and authority as God himself. Crowned as the king over all the earth and over the nations of the world King Jesus acts with the best interest and the eternal benefit of his people, you and I, in mind. How do we know that? Jesus is the king who has conquered sin and death for us and given us a glorious inheritance, but when you look around in the world, sometimes you can’t help but wonder. Is he really the king over all the nations? Does his power and authority really extend that far?

We hear about Christians persecuted for their faith and even losing their lives at the hands of wicked rulers. It’s happened throughout history and it still happens today although it isn’t often reported. Immoral decisions are made by leaders of countries, maybe even our own. Let’s face it! It appears to be getting harder every day to be a Christian in the world. Yet whether we see it or not, Christ remains the King who reigns over all the nations and is seated on his holy throne ruling for the benefit of his people. But even though we know this to be true we might begin to wonder why he allows all of that to happen in the first place. Couldn’t he stop it and restore “order” to this world?

Yes he can, but the psalm writer gives us a key phrase to remember. **“Yes, the shields of the earth belong to God.”** The shields of the earth is a reference to the rulers of the world who are tasked with protecting it and keeping order. Those shields or rulers belong to Christ. They are established by him and given their authority to rule only because Jesus has placed them in that position. As a result those rulers ultimately serve King Jesus’ who has our eternal victory and salvation in mind. So no matter what they do in this world, the King of kings’ purpose is served through them, not theirs. His purpose is to protect his people, keep them in his kingdom, and even spread his kingdom.

Let’s think about that for a second. Is it possible that Jesus is using those earthly rulers to call us to repentance? Have we pulled away from him and his Word? Have we begun to place our trust somewhere else? Is he trying to draw us closer to his throne of grace and mercy so that his reign in us is strengthened? Is he somehow using those earthly rulers to spread his reign where more are brought into his kingdom as his subjects and people?

Yes he could be. We may not know the exact purpose he has in mind for every little thing that happens in this world, nor do we always see in the present how things are working for our benefit. Just because we have a

limited view of the world and the world seems to be spinning out of control, doesn't mean the king has lost control. Nor does it mean he is ignoring the plight of his people.

Jesus crowned in glory reigns in heaven as king over the nations. That's the confidence we have as his subjects whom he loves. Earthly kings lose their power. Nations come and go, but Christ the King reigns forever. He remains seated on his holy throne in heaven ruling over all things with all power and authority. As the King of kings as the Lord of lords Jesus is greatly exalted.

The King that once was crowned with thorns in mockery and shame is now crowned in glory. Jesus is the King victorious over sin and death. Jesus is the King who ascended into heaven to be seated on his holy throne reigning over the whole world. Jesus is our King worthy of all praise and honor and glory for ever and ever. Jesus is our King who is coming again to gather his subjects into his heavenly kingdom forever. Truly Jesus is a king worthy of this coronation song, a song that will forever be raised to his unending praise and glory. Amen



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