

Psalm 47

Paired with the Torah reading on the plagues of lice, flies, murrain, boils and hail.

Psalm 47:1-2 - "O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth."

This reflects the joy of the children of Israel on seeing God send plagues on Egypt, displaying his sovereignty over all false gods.

Psalm 47:3 - "He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet."

The Jewish translation has "He shall plague peoples in our stead"

Rashi - He shall afflict the peoples with a plague (דבר) instead of our soul(s) so that His wrath will subside through them, and we will be saved, as the matter that is stated (**Isaiah 43:3**): "I have given Egypt as your ransom, etc."

Psalm 47:4 - "He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah."

Choose = *bachar* - choose, but also to search out, prove, try, examine. As in **Isaiah 48:10** - "I have proved thee in the furnace of affliction."

The Promised Land is Israel's inheritance, and Israel is God's. Both have been examined and chosen.

Israel as God's inheritance:

Deuteronomy 32:9 - "For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance."

1 Kings 8:51 - "for they are Your people and Your inheritance which You have brought forth from Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace."

"the excellency of Jacob" - the pride, splendor, ornament, glory of Jacob, i.e. the land itself.

Psalm 47:5-6 - "God is gone up (*`alah*) with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."

Rashi - Then He will be exalted with the trumpet blast and the sound of the shofar that we will sound before Him over the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, and we will say, "Sing to God, etc."

Psalm 47:7 - "For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding."

Egypt had made gods of every facet of the natural world - rivers and mountains, the sun and the celestial stars and planets, the forces of nature, and creatures of the air, the earth and the sea. The plagues were displaying God's authority over it all, replaying the act of creation in reverse, with days of destruction.

Psalm 47:8 - "God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness."

God, through the plagues, emphasized his sovereignty over Egypt and all the nations and peoples of the world. He is "holy" - set apart, separate and unique.

Psalm 47:9-10 - "The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted."

princes = *nadiyb* - the willing, the generous and magnanimous, the ones freely inclined toward God.

Rashi - ...who offered themselves to the slaughter, to be slain for the sanctity of His name.

Rashi - "the God of Abraham" - Abraham was the first [willing] volunteer, the first of the proselytes.

Shields = *magen* - protection

Genesis 15:1 - "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."

"he is greatly exalted" = *`alah* - to be high, go up.

The Lord is at the pinnacle of power and authority, shown to be master of every part of creation, and thus the false idols are powerless and vain.