

Series:

A GREAT KING

PSALMS 47 AND 96

Text: Psalms 47:2, 96:4

Psalm 47:2

² *For the LORD most high is terrible; he is **a great King** over all the earth.*

Psalm 96:4

⁴ ***For the LORD is great,** and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.*

Introduction:

I've always liked hearing or reading oxymorons, or self-contradicting phrases.

- Jumbo shrimp
- Freezer burn
- White chocolate
- Sanitary landfill
- Clearly confused
- Pretty ugly

- Only choice
- Original copy

Another phrase that I often here is the phrase “boring worship.”

Illustration:

That reminds me of the little boy who asked his mother if she could remember the highest number she ever counted to.

The mother didn’t know so she asked him about his highest number. He answered, “5,372.”

The mother was puzzled and asked him why he stopped at that particular one.

The boy responded, “Well...church was over.”

In various surveys, when people are asked why they don’t go to church, they often reply that church is just too boring.

While I understand that sometimes a church service can seem dull, especially to a non-believer, I want to suggest this evening that true worship is anything but boring. The very essence of what worship is does not allow us to be bored. When we come before the

majestic God of the universe, who has created everything and has done amazing things in our lives, we can't help but break out into adoration.

In these psalms, Psalms 47 and Psalms 96 we find a call to worship. Now we will spend the majority of the evening considering psalms 96 but both of the psalms deal with the subject of worship.

Before we get into this let ask a few questions for us to consider.

Who should be worshipped?

The Lord God. He is mentioned by name or by pronoun in every stanza of Psalm 96 except verses 11-12.

How should we worship?

With music (verse 1); with proclamation (verse 2); by giving Him glory (verse 8); by bringing an offering (verse 8); by coming into His courts (verse 8); by living holy lives (verse 9); and by witnessing for Him (verse 10).

Why should we worship?

In verse 2, because God has saved us; in verse 4, because of His greatness and His fearsomeness; in verse 5 because of His power; in verse 6, because of His

splendor, majesty, strength, and beauty; and in verse 13, because God is righteous and true and He is coming to judge.

Where are we to worship?

In His sanctuary (verse 6), and in His courts (verse 8).

When are we to worship?

Verse 2 states that we are to Sing unto the LORD, bless his name **from day to day**.

Note four imperatives of worship

We are:

1. EXALT HIS NAME (VS. 1-2)

Psalm 96:1-2

¹ O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. ² Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.

We're called in this passage to sing to the Lord three different times.

When something is repeated in triplets in Scripture its done to get our attention.

There has been singing and shouting from the beginning of time and there will be more singing at the end of the age.

Job 38:7

⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Revelation 15:3

³ And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Not only are we to Exalt His Name but we are to:

2. EXTEND HIS KINGDOM

Psalm 96:2-3

² Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

We're told how to extend His kingdom we're to proclaim His salvation. We're also told when to do it day after day. And, we're told where to do it among the nations. Our message is the gospel, our method is to share the Good News daily, and our mandate is to take it to all peoples.

The only message that we really have today is that Jesus saves. Your friends and family members need to hear from you what salvation is all about.

Not only are we to Exalt His Name and Expand His Kingdom but we are to also:

3. EXPRESS HIS GREATNESS

Psalm 96:4-9

⁴ For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷ Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. ⁸ Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. ⁹ O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

God is not just a tribal god, but is King over all the nations. He is most worthy of praise. While some people worship idols, only the Creator God is worthy of praise.

In verse 6 we see four attributes as if they were surrounding the throne:

We then see in verses 7-9 the challenge what we are to give to the Lord.

Because of His greatness, majesty, and strength we should honor Him.

- Honor and Majesty
- Strength and Beauty

We are called to worship as individuals and families.

The last part of verse 8 gives us a practical way to do that. When this psalm was written people would take offerings to the Temple.

Psalm 96:8

⁸ Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

There are at least three ways that we can bring an offering to the Lord today.

- Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice.

- Hebrews 13:15

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

We are offering a sacrifice of praise.

- Malachi 3:8-12

Malachi 3:8-12

⁸ *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in*

mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. ¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

We are to give our tithes and offerings into the storehouse.

When we surrender our lives to Him, when we offer a sacrifice of praise, and when we give financially, we are declaring that He is worthy.

Not only are we to Exalt His Name, Expand His Kingdom and Express His Greatness but we are to also:

4. EXPECT HIS COMING

Psalm 96:10-13

¹⁰ Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice ¹³ Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

The last stanza of this hymn gives us great hope that Jesus is coming again. And when He does, He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in truth. He will dispense justice, will vindicate believers, and will establish truth forever. His kingdom will have no end.

In the meantime we are to wait and worship the Lord.

The Lord is coming again.

Close:

I began by quoting some oxymorons. I will offer one more: "A Bored Believer.

If we truly understand what being a believer is all about, it will be impossible to be bored. If we are

exalting, extending, expressing, and expecting, we will experience the joy of what it means to partner with God in His kingdom work.

We need to stop sitting and start singing, sowing and serving. That guarantees we will never be bored.