

April 11, Psalms 47, “The shield of the earth, belongs to God”

Lord we’re going to celebrate, clap our hands and shout for joy, because you are not just King of the whole earth, but your King of our hearts. We’ve been brought under your protection from the raging nations around us. We have every proof that we need that you have the power to bring sin under your feet... Because you’ve done it in our hearts. We say with Paul, we are the “chief of sinners”, but now we’ve been brought into the protection of the Prince of all the earth.

When you led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men, you ascended into heaven with a shout of victory. Your shout of victory echoes down into ears of our hearts. Yes your victory has been sealed into our lives by the gifts of the Holy Spirit that build us into one body - the church. YOU have won the victory on the cross, that is our now to live. May all the skills and talents that you have given us be used to praise your name; and build your Church up to be the training ground for those who will be princes and princesses in the earth. So your church will be a place of refuge where those who are injured can be shielded. Because you God truly are the shield of the whole earth.

The corresponding New Testament scripture passage that was also used in this prayer:

That Jesus ascended to heaven, with a shout of victory over all principalities and powers, and rulers on earth; and every sin that could separate us from the love of God in Christ. As a result, we are showered with gifts to complete this work in our lives - in the context of a properly functioning church.

*7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says,  
“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,  
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,  
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”*

*9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some*

*as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up  
of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of  
the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the  
stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. -Eph 4:8-13*