

## Understanding praise

*Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.*

*Psalm 47:6-7*

The emphatic command here is to sing praises to God. The reason is that He is the great King of all the earth. While we can contemplate many reasons to praise God, the very fact of who He is provides sufficient cause. Although much could be enumerated about the many wonderful works He has performed, these are possible because of who He is. There is none like Him, therefore He is holy. As King, He rules over all in sovereign majesty. He exercises authority over all creation because He is the Creator. He provides redemption and salvation because He is righteousness and mercy, our Savior and Redeemer. To know and consider these things provokes our souls to agree with the exhortation of the psalmist to praise Him. And while there are various ways to praise, the most common is to sing praises.

The mechanism of human music was born in His creation of the voice. Man has invented instruments for making music, yet the genuine sound comes from the voice. Then the combination of voice in tune with the heart that understands who He is provides harmony. Although men have the capacity to make musical harmonies that inspire, impress, or pacify, the most significant harmony is created between the understanding and the expression of praise. So, just as a carefully constructed musical harmony is pleasing to the ear, the praise that is expressed consistent with spiritual understanding is even more pleasing to the soul, as well as honoring the Lord we praise.

Therefore, as we sing praises to God our King, let us do so with understanding, from knowing Him and His truth revealed through scripture. In so doing we will guard against the danger of worshiping only the sound or the emotion, instead of the One we praise, and then promote harmony of souls and voices united in the truth of His holiness.