

Psalm 48

1 A Song and Psalm for the sons of Korah. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. 3 God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. 6 Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. 7 Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind. 8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah. 9 We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. 10 According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. 11 Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. 13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. 14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Introduction:

1. “Song” – singing; “Psalm” – instrumental music.
2. The Sons of Korah (Num. 16:23-34, Num. 26:11).
3. The Sons of Korah Psalms are 11 in total (Pss. 42, 44-49, 84, 85, 87, 88).
4. This Psalm celebrates God and the City of God (Jerusalem). And has a prophetic look towards the Millennial Kingdom City (or better yet, a Millennial Metropolis – A.G. Clarke).
5. Songs of Zion Psalms include: 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, and 122.
6. Inclusio (“envelop” or book ends) (v. 1, v. 14) with “our God.”

Outline:

- A. The Greatness of God and His City (vv.1-3)
- B. The Perfections of God (vv.4-11)
- A.’ The Greatness of God and His City (vv.12-14)

Observations:

1. Psalm 48 celebrates the deliverance of Jerusalem from her enemies (e.g. under Jehoshaphat, 2 Chr. 20:1-37 or under Hezekiah, 2 Kings 18 & 19; Isa. 36, 37).
2. (v.2) is referred to by Christ in Matt. 5:35.
3. Zion means “raised up.” Another name for Jerusalem (mentioned 3X in v.2, v.11, v.12). The Geographic changes elevate Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom (Micah 4:1; Zech. 14:9-10, 16).
4. God’s presence is especially in the midst of Zion (vv.1-3). The reason for Zion’s victory is the presence of God. King Jesus will rule in the Millennial Kingdom which has no end (Lk. 1:30-33; Dan. 7:13-14).
5. The Lord Jesus sees the City as it will be when all the nations shall flow into it (Isa. 2:2). The land of Israel shall be revived (Joel 3:18). The entire earth shall yield her increase (Isa. 55:13). Human life will be prolonged (Isa. 65:20, 22; Zech. 8:4). The Animal kingdom will change for the better (Isa. 11:6-9).
6. “kings” and “Tarshish” (Spain), suggests a world-wide conspiracy like that of Psalm 2.
7. God’s enemies tremble and flee Mt. Zion, but God’s people take refuge in it. What a contrast!

Lesson: Not everyone who say “this God” can say “our God.” Are you saved? Can you say with integrity of heart that this God is your God? If He is your God this moment He will be your God for a millennium. Think about God and thank God always.

Remember: Entrance into God’s Holy City, Zion, will depend on having or possessing perfect righteousness – and the Lord Jesus is the only one who possesses perfect righteousness (Lev. 20:17; 1 Pet. 1:15,16) and the Lord Jesus makes every repentant sinner who believes in Him – righteous before God (2 Cor. 5:21).