



DATE: 24 July 2024 WED

TEXT: **Psalm 48**

TITLE: **:: Like Paul**

We have thought of thy lovingkindness,
O God, in the midst of thy temple.

Psalm 48:9

REVIEW

Think like David: God's created works

Think like Asaph: God's previous actions

Think like John: God's marvelous love

Think like Haggai: God's great forgiveness

Think like Malachi: God's familiar names

Think like Joshua: God's prosperous Word

Think like Mary: God's incredible Son

Think like Timothy: God's fabulous gifts

think like Paul: God's personal character

INTRODUCTION

- the sons of Korah were members of an elite family of Levites...they had been designated by King David to be 'over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle; and their fathers; being over the host of the LORD, were keepers of the entry.'

see **1 Chronicles 9:19**

- *the psalms for the sons of Korah* comprise ten psalms (**42, 44-49, 84, 85, 87**) all of which deal with the idea of intimacy with God

it would appear the sons of Korah wanted to know God and walk with Him...a recurring theme in their psalms is the altar of God, perhaps because they remembered the sin of their family namesake

Numbers 16

by staying close to the altar, they remained close to cleansing and purity...and were kept from temptation

to be intimate with God requires us to move beyond the generic statements concerning Him:

God *is* love, but what does that mean in the context of your life?

1 John 4:8

God *is* righteous, but how has that changed the way you live?

Psalm 145:17

in **Psalm 48**, the sons of Korah encouraged worshippers to celebrate two attributes of God

His greatness

His goodness

NOTE: the historical context of **Psalm 46-48** is to be found in **2 Kings 18-19** where Sennacherib, king of Assyria, fought against King Hezekiah and attempted to conquer the city of Jerusalem

for the sons of Korah, as ministers in the gates of the Temple, every truth about God was related to the way their lives were structured

1. GOD'S GREATNESS **verses 1-8**

the writer of the psalm assumes the perspective that the people of God defeated the Assyrian army

A. GOD'S PRESENCE **verses 1-2**

the song begins with thoughts of God's presence...His greatness...in His city

while the Assyrians might have been experts at laying siege, they did not factor the presence of God into their tactics

Romans 8:31

What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?

NOTE: when the Babylonians eventually conquered the city, it was only because the Shekinah glory of God had already departed from it...**Ezekiel 8:4**

the same would be true with the Roman Army...the Temple veil had been torn in two while the Jews' continued to observe an empty religion...

Matthew 27:50-51

the city of Jerusalem was 'beautiful for situation'... it was surrounded on three sides by deep ravines...the only approach was to the north

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Colossians 2:14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

notice the *personal* attention Christ gave

B. GOD'S PEACE **verse 3**

outside the walls of the city, there was chaos
as the armies of Assyria gathered

but on the inside, there was no fear
because homes became a refuge

battle plans and reports were important

the condition of weapons was kept up

but God was there

the people of God knew the greatness of
God...what He had accomplished for them
in years past

they were out-numbered and out-
manned, so they trusted in God to
win the battle

intimacy with God reminds us
of what He did before

Psalm 111:4

He hath made his wonderful works to be
remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of
compassion.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your
heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

C. GOD'S PRESERVATION **verses 4-8**

an Assyrian army with a commanding presence probably approached Jerusalem with great pride and arrogance

the kings...captains...were assembled and came to the walls of Jerusalem

before long, however, the Almighty God had turned this battle into a three-front war

the city of Lachish was also being besieged

the army of Pharaoh Tirhaka (an Ethiopian king in Egypt) had turned towards the north, as well

2 Kings 19:8-9

Sennacherib had not anticipated the greatness of Israel's God in controlling all the armies of the world to do His bidding

NOTE: because the siege of Jerusalem was a land battle, 'the ships of Tarshish' seems to be a Jewish idiom, comparing the armies of Assyria with the great ships from the north (Tarshish) that plied the waters of the Mediterranean

1 Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:18

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2. GOD'S GOODNESS **verses 9-14**

NOTE: our King James Bible translates the word *loving kindness* as 'goodness', 'pity' and 'mercy' in other places

the love of God in defending Jerusalem is all the more amazing when we consider that only a few faithful were standing for God in this hour

A. CALLS US TO WORSHIP **verses 9-11**

in **2 Kings 19**, King Hezekiah had received vile, threatening letters from Sennacherib

rather than fret over them, the king took them into the Temple and spread them out before God

he declared the truth contained in the letters, but then he worshipped the all-powerful God of Heaven and called on Him to deliver His people

NOTE: consider the way the Temple must have looked before Hezekiah restored it to its glorious splendor...

see **2 Chronicles 29**

Psalm 5:7

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Psalm 29:2

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

B. CALLS US TO WITNESS **verses 12-14**

in victory, the people were expected to walk around the city and take note of all the blessings of God

tell = count

the many *towers* and *bulwarks* remained unscathed because of the power of God

they would stand for generations as a testimony to His protection

the goodness and greatness of God was revealed in the things God had provided

but it was God Himself who was the true blessing

Israel was enjoying a new lease on their spiritual life...they had once forsaken God, but now they would return to Him

Psalm 48:14

For this God is our God for ever and ever:
he will be our guide even unto death.

for the believer who enjoys intimacy with God, our walk is both *deathless* and *directed*

Acts 1:8 and **1 Timothy 6:12**



THINK reading list:

Psalm 42, 88 **Matthew 6**



THINK playlist:

Draw Me Nearer

How Great Is Our God by Chris Tomlin