

Psalm 84

V: 1 How Amiable, how agreeable, How lovely, the word literally mean “beloved” or “well loved” describing His Tabernacle, His dwelling place - the place where He is! We long to be there because we want to be with Him!

Psalm 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His Temple.”

Psalm 16:11 “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- Bottom line: It’s heaven because He’s there, and it’s hell because He’s not.

V: 2 His soul / our soul should long for His courts, just to be in His presence.

- My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God - we were created to have fellowship with Him, and once we’ve entered into that fellowship with Him, we crave it all the more!

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- God created us with a natural thirst for Him, an emptiness that can only be filled or fulfilled in a personal relationship with Him.

[Our purpose is that we were created to please Him:](#)

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.”

- It is only in fulfillment of that purpose, when we are pleasing to Him, fulfilling His purposes that we will find our own satisfaction.
- He is the Living and the True God!

Psalm 42:1-2 “¹As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

V: 3 There may have been those birds that made their nests in the Temple precincts near the altar of sacrifice, living in and around the courts of the Lord.

- The Psalmist was envious of their freedom to be so near, to abide in His courts.

- Just as the birds of the air have their nests, their places - those safe places where they can be at rest and raise their young, even so our place is with you, at that place of worship and sacrifice.
- When I was in Israel, one of the places that I wanted to see the most was Hebron because of its place in Abraham's life.

Genesis 13:18 "Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord."

- It's actually the plain of Mamre which is in Hebron: **Mamre** means "richness" and **Hebron** means "communion" - this is where he built an altar. So in sacrificing / worshipping God he was found in the place of richness and communion with God; he was home, he was right where God wanted him to be, right where he belonged.

V: 4 There is inherent blessing to those who dwell in the house of God, those who are near Him, abiding in Him.

- Being near to Him, being in His presence we begin to see Him in His beauty and glory, we begin to appreciate His wisdom, His power, His love, and as we are overwhelmed with His goodness the natural response is to praise Him and to worship Him.

Psalm 65: 4 "Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts, we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple."

V: 5 "Blessed" - "Oh how happy" is the man... who allows the Lord to be his strength.

- Who's heart is set on pilgrimage - not settling down in this world, but who realizes that we're just passing through.

Jacob had a right mind set, he knew that this earth was not his real home:

Genesis 47:9 "And Jacob said to Pharaoh, the days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life..."

- The Apostle Paul went through a season of weakness and suffering, he prayed about it three times:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "9And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10Therefore I take

pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- Blessed is that man who's strength is in the Lord, who has found the strength of the Lord in his life. When I am weak then I am strong because I'm not relying upon myself, now I'm relying upon the Lord and His strength just as He has promised.

V: 6 As that man who is blessed in his pilgrimage passes through the valley of “*baca*.”

- *Baca*: (H-1056) Weeping, tears, valley of misery.
- God blesses His children through the trials and difficulties of life, through the pilgrimage.
- The rain is also present, coving or filling the pools - a well watered way. Rain is a blessing in the Bible.

Psalm 30:5 “... Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

- Almost as if God would take them through that valley of misery into a time of refreshing.

Psalm 61:3 “... to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

V: 7-9 That blessed man gets stronger and stronger, as he relies on the Lord, allowing the Lord to be his strength - it is the way of blessing.

Psalm 128:1 “Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.”

“⁸*Hear my prayer, give ear...*”

V: 9 “*Behold, O God, our shield...*”

- Look upon the face of Your anointed: shine your countenance upon your anointed, your king our king!
- The word anointed here is a variation of the word Messiah which is usually referring to the anointing of kings. David often times referred to King Saul as God's anointed.
- The Psalmist is praying for that man who had been anointed as king over Israel.

- In the same way we should be praying for our president and those that God has appointed to rule over us.
- This could refer to the One who is God's anointed:

Luke 4:18-19 “¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”

- The Psalmist' prayer would become our own - Oh God our shield, our protection look at look at the Messiah, look upon your anointed, look at Jesus, don't look at us!

V: 10 A day in His courts is better is better than a thousand anywhere else.

- Just to be a door keeper, a seemingly insignificant servant - but who has the privilege of simply being a servant in the household of God - way way better than living in the house of the wicked.

1 Timothy 6:6 “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

- What I've just told you is true, but there is more to this verse than just that.
- The title states that this is a Psalm of the sons of Korah. The KJV says that it's a Psalm for the sons of Korah.
- Back in the book of Numbers the order of the Tabernacle is described in great detail. The different families within the tribe of the Levites were given different assignments or responsibilities, priestly duties, transporting the Tabernacle itself, setting it up, maintaining it and the furnishings.
- Every priest was a Levite, but not every Levite was a priest.
- The same thing followed eventually with the Temple of Solomon.

1 Chronicles 26:1 “Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.”

- The sons of Korah were the doorkeepers to the Temple and they were very glad to be in that position.
- Back in Numbers, the Kohathites led by Korah himself were part of the family of Levi, and their responsibility was to bear the Tabernacle and it's furnishing after the priests had packed it all up - they weren't to directly touch anything lest they die - they were porters, that was their job.

- Korah eventually led a rebellion against the authority that Moses exercised - he accused Moses saying

Numbers 16:3 "... You take too much upon yourselves..."

- Paraphrasing a bit here: "You elevated your brother Aaron and his sons as the priests who offer sacrifices, but we are Levites also and have just as much a right as they do to go before the Lord.
- So Korah led this rebellion Moses' leadership. Moses was very grieved and fell on his face before the Lord, but eventually left it for the Lord to decide.
- Moses told those that were rebelling to come back tomorrow and to bring their censers with them, those little incense pots on a chain used for ceremonial purposes and that God would determine who was to offer the incense before Him.
- The next day these guys show up, 250 of them with their censers to offer before the Lord, but Korah who started all of this wasn't among them. Korah wouldn't come, Moses told them to go get Korah but he said that he didn't need to obey Moses and wouldn't come.
- Moses then warned everyone to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, these wicked men.
- Moses then said that if God is in this thing then let Him do something new. Let God open up the earth and swallow Korah and his family alive right into the pit.

Numbers 16:31-33 "³¹Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, ³²and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. ³³So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly."

- Obviously there were others of the house of Korah that survived on down through their generations and still had a place of ministry.

And at present they are saying:

"¹⁰... I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

- Now you have the back story to this part of the Psalm: That's what happened to Korah, the head of the family, dwelling in the tents of wickedness, he went directly down into the pit and the earth closed up over him.

- We can see that this incident had an enduring impact upon the attitude of the sons of Korah “*you guys are assigned as doorkeepers...*” “*Ok.... we’re good...*”

Oh, but wait there is more:

Numbers 16:35 “And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.”

- Then Moses said something like, “Well, it looks like Aaron’s the man...”

V: 11 The Lord is my light (sun) and my protector (shield) - He is my life!

Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

“*11b The Lord will give grace and glory...*”

- God will give (**grace**) His un-merited favor, and (**glory**) His honor, His glory, His majesty, His wealth - He will give us Himself!

John 1:17 “For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Speaking of Jesus:

Hebrews 1:3 “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power...”

Colossians 2:9 “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”

“*11c ... no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*”

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

“*... from those who walk uprightly.*”

- This kind of puts the ball in our court - when we walk uprightly with the Lord, when we walk with Him - and no good thing will He withhold.

1 John 3:22 “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...”

- God wants to bless your life. God wants to pour out upon you His divine favor and lavish His love upon you. All I have to do is walk in harmony with Him. Our hearts and lives in harmony in accordance to God - and no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Philippians 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

V: 12 Oh how happy, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

- The blessing that comes from faith, simply believing, then living by faith, acting it out, by the power of the Holy Spirit living it out, and the blessings that result from that living faith walk with the Lord!

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”