

Psalms 48-50 – Thursday, September 20th, 2018

Psalm 48 -- A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. 1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. 2 Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, The city of the great King. 3 God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. 4 For behold, the kings assembled, They passed by together. 5 They saw it, and so they marveled; They were troubled, they hastened away. 6 Fear took hold of them there, And pain, as of a woman in birth pangs, 7 As when You break the ships of Tarshish With an east wind. 8 As we have heard, So we have seen In the city of the LORD of hosts, In the city of our God: God will establish it forever. Selah 9 We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness, In the midst of Your temple. 10 According to Your name, O God, So is Your praise to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness. 11 Let Mount Zion rejoice, Let the daughters of Judah be glad, Because of Your judgments. 12 Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers; 13 Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell it to the generation following. 14 For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death.

- Psalm 48, like the two Psalms before it, are Psalms of celebration for the miraculous deliverance of God from the Assyrians.
- This after an angel of the Lord had killed 185,000 Assyrians who were encamped about the city of Jerusalem to conquer it.
- God, true to His Word and true to His promise through the prophet Isaiah, didn't allow even one Assyrian to enter the city walls.

- What's interesting about Psalm 48 is its reference to the vulnerability of Jerusalem from the North, which is where it's attacked.
- This because, Jerusalem is protected by both its elevation and its steep valleys that provide a barrier from invading enemies.
- To me, this speaks to the paramount importance of knowing where our vulnerabilities are to spiritual attacks from the enemy.

Psalm 49 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. 1 Hear this, all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world, 2 Both low and high, Rich and poor together. 3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall give understanding. 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will disclose my dark saying on the harp. 5 Why should I fear in the days of evil, When the iniquity at my heels surrounds me? 6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches, 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him— 8 For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever— 9 That he should continue to live eternally, And not see the Pit. 10 For he sees wise men die; Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, And leave their wealth to others. 11 Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names. 12 Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish. 13 This is the way of those who are foolish, And of their posterity who approve their sayings. Selah 14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; Death shall feed on them; The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; And their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling. 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. Selah 16 Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased; 17 For when he dies he shall carry nothing away; His glory shall not descend after him. 18 Though while he lives he blesses himself (For men will praise you when you do well for yourself), 19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They shall never see light. 20 A man who is in honor, yet does not understand, Is like the beasts that perish.

- The take away from Psalm 49 is the utter folly of one trusting in their riches at the expense, no pun intended, of trusting in God.
- As the Psalmist so eloquently and even poetically says it, the reason trusting in ones wealth if foolish is he leaves it all behind.
- Moreover, one can have all the wealth in the world but it is meaningless in redeeming his own life, let alone the life of another.

Mark 8:36–37 - 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 6:19–24 - 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

The story is told of John Jacob Astor, who made his wealth in the 1800s who was on the ill-fated Titanic. When it was discovered that Astor was one of the multitude perished at sea, his cousin was asked how much the billionaire left. "He left everything," the man replied.

Another fictitious story is told of a very wealthy man who was at the gates of heaven expecting a beautiful and magnificent mansion to await him because he was wealthy on earth only to be shown a broken down shack off in the distance. When the wealthy man asked why he had this shack and not a mansion, he was told that they did the best with the money he had laid up for himself in heaven and this is all they could afford.

Psalm 50 -- A Psalm of Asaph. 1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth From the rising of the sun to its going down. 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. 3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; A fire shall devour before Him, And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. 4 He shall call to the heavens from above, And to the earth, that He may judge His people: 5 "Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." 6 Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is Judge. Selah 7 "Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God! 8 I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me. 9 I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds. 10 For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. 13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats? 14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. 15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." 16 But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, 17 Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you? 18 When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers. 19 You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. 20 You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. 21 These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. 22 "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver: 23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."

- Psalm 50 is about the coming judgment of God on the day of the Lord, when He comes to set up His reign in the Millennium.
- What's interesting about this Psalm is that it speaks to how salvation is chiefly for a relationship with His people not sacrifice.
- In other words, God didn't save His people so they could offer sacrifices to Him; rather it was to have a relationship with Him.

- I made the decision to only get to Psalm 50 and not Psalm 51, because I didn't want to rush through this well-known Psalm.
- The reason I mention this is because I would like to encourage you to read it and meditate on it prior to our study through it.
- Lord willing, we'll study Psalm 51 when I return in a couple of weeks, which should give you plenty of time to study this Psalm.