

## Psalms 84

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 84 - and as we make our way to the 84th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - this is the eighth Psalm written by the sons of Korah.

The first seven of these Psalms are found in the second section of this book.

And it's here in the third section of the Psalms - where we find four more songs written by the sons of Korah...

...beginning with the 84th Psalm.

For the sake of clarity - I should remind you that the sons of Korah - were actually the descendants of the infamous Israelite...

...who led a rebellion against Moses - during the days when they were wandering in the wilderness.

As a result of their rebellion - the Lord opened the earth underneath Korah - and all those who followed him.

And after falling down alive - into the pit - the Lord closed the Earth over them...

...and they all perished - as they were removed from among the assembly of Israel.

Now - as we consider the tragic end of Korah - - you might be interested to know that...

...Korah had three sons who were spared from the judgment of God.

His three sons formed the tribe of people who became known as the Korahites.

And it was during the days of David - when the Korahites served the King of Israel - as doorkeepers and soldiers.

It's also interesting to note that - these descendants redeemed the family name...

...by becoming warrior poets - who were not only mighty in battle...

...but - they also became prolific Psalmists - who penned eleven songs that we find in the book of Psalms.

And as we consider the way that the Lord used the sons of Korah...

...we can rejoice in knowing that - the rebellious sins of our ancestors...

...can't stop us from becoming those believers - who faithfully proclaim the praises of the Lord.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 84th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where we read...

Psa 84:1 To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

How lovely is Your tabernacle,  
O LORD of hosts!

Psa 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints  
For the courts of the LORD;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psa 84:3 Even the sparrow has found a home,

And the swallow a nest for herself,

Where she may lay her young—

Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,

My King and my God.

Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;  
They will still be praising You. Selah

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the sons of Korah describing the beauty of the Tabernacle.

What this means is that - this Psalm was written - before King Solomon built the temple there in Jerusalem.

And while it's possible that the sons of Korah were singing about the Tabernacle that David created for the Ark...

...it's more likely that they were singing about the original Tabernacle of Moses...

...which was located in Gibeon - at the time when this song was written.

It's also possible that the sons of Korah were singing about the heavenly Tabernacle of the Lord.

You might not know this - but - when the Lord presented Moses with detailed instructions concerning the construction of the Tabernacle...

...He was actually directing Moses to create a copy - of the Tabernacle that is there in Heaven.

Here's how Paul explained it - in Hebrews chapter 8 - - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Heb 8:1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 8:2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

Heb 8:4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

Heb 8:5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Here in these verses - we find Paul - referring to the true tabernacle that the Lord created in Heaven.

And what this means is that - the Tabernacle that Moses created here on Earth...

...was a copy - and a shadow - of the true Tabernacle of the Lord.

It's in Hebrews chapter 9 - verses 11 and 12 - where Paul expounded upon this incredible information - by declaring...

Heb 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Heb 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

It was after His death - burial - and resurrection - when Christ Jesus ascended into heaven.

It was at that moment - when He entered the greater and more perfect tabernacle...

...which the Lord created - there in Heaven.

With all of this in mind - I can't help but to wonder if God gave the sons of Korah a glimpse into this heavenly tabernacle.

And if so - then - it seems to me that this song isn't about the Earthly tabernacle - made by Moses...

...nor is it about the replacement tabernacle that King David created in Jerusalem.

No - instead - this song is about the beauty of heavenly tabernacle...

...where the Lord of Hosts is waiting to receive us to Himself.

With this perspective in mind - let's take another look at this song - beginning again - there at verse 1 - where we read...

Psa 84:1 How lovely is Your tabernacle,  
O LORD of hosts!

Psa 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints  
For the courts of the LORD;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psa 84:3 Even the sparrow has found a home,  
And the swallow a nest for herself,  
Where she may lay her young—  
Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
My King and my God.

Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;  
They will still be praising You. Selah

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the sons of Korah - describing the way that they longed for the courts of the Lord.

Now - that's an interesting statement - especially as we consider how the sons of Korah...

...served as gatekeepers at the Tabernacle of God.

What this means is that - the sons of Korah actually lived in the chambers of the Tabernacle...

...so that they could participate in the service of God from the morning sacrifice to the evening sacrifice.

That being the case - I find it difficult to believe that they were longing for the courts of the earthly tabernacle...

...where they found themselves - every day.

We should also notice how they compared those who dwell in the house of the Lord - to the birds who were nesting in the tabernacle.

Look with me again - beginning there at verse 3 - where the sons of Korah declared...

Psa 84:3 Even the sparrow has found a home,  
And the swallow a nest for herself,  
Where she may lay her young—  
Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
My King and my God.

Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;  
They will still be praising You. Selah

Here in these verses - we learn about the sparrows - and the swallows - who were nesting there in the Tabernacle of God.

And I imagine that the sons of Korah awoke every day - to the songs of those birds...

...that made the altars of the Lord - their home.

In similar fashion - those who dwell in the house of the Lord - will sing the praises of our God.

And as we consider the comparison - it seems to me that the sons of Korah...

...were actually singing about our Heavenly home.

This reminds me of the promise that Jesus presented in John chapter 14 it's beginning at verse 1 - where He declared...

Jhn 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Jhn 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jhn 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

According to the Lord - those who trust in Jesus will eventually be received into our heavenly home.

And it's there where we will sing the praises of our Savior - like the song birds who dwelt in the tabernacle of Moses.

Until that day comes - we can rejoice in knowing that the Lord will strengthen those who set their hearts on Him.

Let's consider how the sons of Korah put it - here in the 84th Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 5 - where they declared...

Psa 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,  
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

Psa 84:6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca,  
They make it a spring;  
The rain also covers it with pools.

Psa 84:7 They go from strength to strength;  
Each one appears before God in Zion.

Psa 84:8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

Here in these verses - we find the sons of Korah - describing the way in which the Lord strengthens those whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

Just to be clear - there were three pilgrimage feasts that took place at the tabernacle - and afterwards - the temple.

This included Passover - the Feast of Weeks - and the Feast of Tabernacles.

And according to the Lord - every able bodied man was expected to attend these pilgrimage feasts - every year.

Now - imagine being an Israelite - and you're living as far north as the city of Dan - - or you're living to the far south - in Beersheba.

And you're expected to travel - three times a year - to the tabernacle located on Mount Zion.

I have no doubt that this would begin to become a burdensome trip - which brought many to the valley of Baca.

Just to be clear - the Valley of Baca wasn't a geographic location in Israel no - instead - the Valley of Baca means - valley of tears.

And so - when the sons of Korah referred to those who pass through the Valley of Baca - and make it a spring...

...they were referring to those who were found themselves weeping - in the valley of tears.

And as a result - their tears created springs of water along the way.

And while it's true that there were many pilgrims who wept in the valley of tears...

...it's also true that the Lord strengthened them - as they prepared to appear before God in Zion.

And it was to this end - that the sons of Korah cried out to the LORD God of hosts...

...so that the sons of Jacob might be strengthened by the blessings of the Lord.

With all of this in mind - I should remind you that - Mount Zion is not only the location - where David built a new tabernacle...

...and Mount Zion was not only another name - for Mount Moriah - where King Solomon built the temple...

...but - Mount Zion is also the name for the location - where the heavenly Jerusalem is located.

Let's consider how Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 18 - where he declared...

Heb 12:18 ...you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,

Heb 12:19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.

Heb 12:20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.")

Heb 12:21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Heb 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Much like the heavenly tabernacle that Paul mentioned in Hebrews chapters 8 and 9...

...there is also a heavenly Jerusalem - which is situated on a Mountain called - Zion.

And it's there where the general assembly and church of our preeminent Messiah...

...will sing the praises our Mediator - Jesus Christ.

What this also means is that - we are currently on a pilgrimage - which takes us through the valley of tears.

And knowing that many of us are filling up the springs - with the tears we shed...

...I encourage you to remember that - the Lord is the One Who strengthens the souls...

...of those whose heart is set on this pilgrimage.

Christian - listen - if you find yourself in the Valley of Baca tonight...

...then I encourage you to remember what King David wrote in the 30th Psalm - it's verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 30:5b Weeping may endure for a night,  
But joy comes in the morning.

In other words - the seasons of weeping that take place in the valley of tears...

...will eventually end - as we ascend to the heavenly Mountain of God.

And it's for this reason that we should set our hearts on heaven...

...as we endure the trials and troubles of this world.

With this as our focus - let's consider how the sons of Korah put it - here in the 84th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 9 - where they declared...

Psa 84:9 O God, behold our shield,  
And look upon the face of Your anointed.

Psa 84:10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psa 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
The LORD will give grace and glory;  
No good thing will He withhold  
From those who walk uprightly.

Psa 84:12 O LORD of hosts,  
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find the sons of Korah...

...rejoicing in the Messianic blessings that the Lord pours out on those who trust in Him.

In order to prove my point - it'll help you to know that the word - anointed - found there at the end of verse 9...

...was translated from the Hebrew word - maw-shee'-akh - which is the basis for our English word - Messiah.

Now - I should point out that - this word is often times used in reference to an anointed High Priest - or - and anointed King.

And so - it's possible that the sons of Korah were referring to the anointed king - David.

And yet - as we consider the context - it seems to me that - they were actually referring to the King of kings...

...our anointed Messiah - Jesus.

In order to make my case - it'll help you to know that the Hebrew word Messiach is translated into the Greek word - Christos - in the Septuagint.

And when it comes to the New Testament - the Greek word - Christos - which also means - anointed...

...is only used of one individual - and it's not King David.

The Greek word - Christos - is only used of Jesus in the New Testament.

That being the case - what are the chances that the unnamed anointed ones in the Old Testament...

...are also a reference Jesus Christ?

With this question in mind - I should remind you of the rebuke that Jesus presented to the Jews - in Matthew chapter 5.

It's verse 39 - where He declared...

Jhn 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Christian - listen - the Old Testament scripture prophetically point to the ministry of our Messiah.

That being the case - it only stands to reason that the unnamed anointed One found in the Old Testament...

...is more than likely - a reference to our Messiah - Jesus Christ.

Further proof of my point can be found in Luke chapter 24 - where our risen Redeemer taught a Bible study to His disciples.

It's beginning at verse 25 - where He said to them...

Luk 24:25 “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Luk 24:26 “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

Luk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Christ Jesus expounded the Old Testament scriptures to His disciples...

...so that they could see how the Scriptures actually testify of Him.

And what this means is that the average Jew - there in the first century - was failing to realize that...

...the unnamed anointed One found in the Old Testament...

...was - in many cases - prophetically pointing to our Messiah - Jesus.

That being the case - it seems to me that the sons of Korah were singing about the anointed Messiah - here in our text tonight.

Look with me again - beginning there at verse 9 - where they declared..

Psa 84:9 O God, behold our shield,  
And look upon the face of Your anointed.

Notice that - there is no mention of David - and there is no mention of an anointed high priest.

But there is a mention of a shield - which is used of our Savior - in several Psalms.

And with that being the case - it seems to me that this unarmed anointed One...

...is prophetically pointing to our shield and buckler - Jesus Christ.

We should also consider the way that the sons of Korah - rejoiced the future salvation of our Savior.

Look with me again - there at verse 10 - where they declared...

Psa 84:10a For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.

One day in the courts of the Lord - - is better than a thousand days anywhere else.

And yes - this includes your favorite vacation destination.

Brenda and I love going to Bentonville Arkansas - because...

...there are nearly 600 miles of award winning Mountain Bike Trails - most of which are free.

And yet - I have no doubt that One day in the courts of the Lord...

...is better than a thousand days in Bentonville.

We should also notice what the sons of Korah said - there in the second half of verse 10 - where they declared...

Psa 84:10b I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Now - remember - they were the gatekeepers at the tabernacle in Gibeon.

And so - it seems to me that they were hoping to remain in this same position in the tabernacle of heaven...

...than to end up dwelling with the wicked - in the habitation of hell.

Christian - listen - I don't know what it will be like to spend eternity with our Savior - Jesus...

...but what I do know is that - it'll be better to be a servant in Heaven - forever...

...than to spend eternity with the wicked - who would not repent of their sins.

And the reason why is because - the blessing of God's grace will be poured out forever...

...upon those who trust in the Lord.

Let's consider again how the sons of Korah put it - there in the final verses of this Psalm.

Look with me - beginning again there at verse 11 - where they declared...

Psa 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
The LORD will give grace and glory;  
No good thing will He withhold  
From those who walk uprightly.  
Psa 84:12 O LORD of hosts,  
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Sun and Shield - Grace and Glory - - and every other beautiful  
blessing will be poured out on those who trust in the Lord.

And as we consider how the anointed King of kings is currently  
preparing a place for us...

...I encourage you to remember that our citizenship is  
actually in heaven.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Philipians chapter 3 - it's verse 20 -  
where he declared...

Phl 3:20 ...our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly  
wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Phl 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be  
conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He  
is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Christian - listen - we may be citizens of the USA - and we may be  
residents here in the great state of Texas.

And yet - we must not forget that - the citizenship of the  
Christian is actually in heaven.

And as we enter our heavenly home - we will also receive  
a brand new glorified body...

...which will forever be free from every disease - and  
deformity.

With that being the case - I encourage those who trust in Jesus - to face the  
valley of tears - with the faith that looks forward to the future.

Let's consider the example of faith - found in the lives of the Old Testament Saints.

It's Hebrews chapter 11 beginning at verse 13 - where Paul described the faith of those Saints - by declaring...

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

Heb 11:15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Those who truly trust in the Lord - are those who are looking forward to the future...

...as we long for the day - when we will enter the heavenly courts of the LORD.

And as we look forward to that day when we our Messiah will receive us to Himself...

...I encourage you to sing the praises of the One - Who is preparing for us a place...

...where we can corporately celebrate our Savior Jesus - forevermore.