

## Psalm 84, “A Psalm of the Sons of Korah”

The subscript on this Psalm assigns the authorship to “the sons of Korah.” The surprise is their writing this Psalm, and then it be given a place in the inspiration of the Psalms. Their story is found mainly in two places, Numbers 16 and Numbers 26.

Numbers is the 4<sup>th</sup> book of the 5 in the Pentateuch. Convincing evidence supports Moses as the recorder of the events in the book. It is named for the two censuses taken. It covers the time from when Israel left Mt Sinai to the arrival at the plains of Moab on the border of the promised land.

A main sub-plot involves Korah. Num. 13 and 14 record Israel’s first approach to the border of Canaan and the report of the spies that said it was impossible. The people rebelled and would have killed Moses, except for God’s intervention. God said none would enter the land except Caleb and Joshua.

Laws are given in chapter 15. Then, Numbers 16, “Now Korah, son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, sons of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took action.” Korah, Dathan and Abiram, took action with 250 leaders and challenged Moses.

Read this Psalm with this background. Listen to appreciation of what it means to worship together in the house of the Lord.

1. The sons of Korah had found a *place* in God’s service
  - a. The great truth of Paul: Eph 1:3-5; 2:1-10
  - b. The promise of Jesus, “I go to prepare a place for you...”
  - c. More than the liturgical structure;
  - d. More than the experience of community;
  - e. More than the aesthetics of the music; my soul longs for the courts of the Lord;
  - f. Like the birds that found safety and satisfaction; they had found the same;
  - g. There is no greater treasure than the knowledge that you have a place in the kingdom of God.
  - h. A place in spite of their heritage
  
2. They had found *power* in their experience
  - a. Life had been difficult; to have your ancestor as a point of referral to illustrate rebellion;
  - b. There had been a lot of weeping
  - c. In the valley of Baca, of weeping, they had learned to minister to others.
  - d. Most of us pray to escape from or out of, but what happens if God lets us walk through?

3. They had discovered a *principle*: anything with God was better than everything without Him. In practical terms it meant this:
  - a. A day with him was better than a thousand without him;
  - b. Standing in his doorway was better than living in the biggest mansion that Bill Gates could afford;
  - c. As the sun he blessed all, indiscriminately, what looks to be waste (flowers bloom for a day)
  - d. He freely gives grace, and that leads to glory and does not hold back.