

FROM BACA TO MISHKAN TO SHEKINAH

Psalm 84

The Blessedness of Dwelling in the House of God
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! My soul longs, yes,
even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God. 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. Blessed are those who
dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on
pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a
spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to
strength; each one appears before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts,
hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.
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. 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. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

One thing I want to state up front before we look at **Psalm 84**. Our
summer-long series, which is now bleeding into the fall, of studying
and meditating on the Psalms, can be said to come from what the
Apostle Paul said to the Colossians, in **Colossians 3:16**. Paul says,
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching
and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” My objective, so to
speak, is for US, you and me, to better know the Word of God—which
means the written Word of God, being the Holy Bible, and then also
knowing the Word of God that became flesh and “dwelt among us” and
that we all will one day “behold His glory, the glory as of the
only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (**John 1:14**)
One day we will be face to face with our Lord and our God! Hopefully
that is not something that any of us will fear as “perfect love casts
out fear, because fear involves torment.” (**1 John 4:8**) Meanwhile, we
are not expected to be just waiting on and expecting to know God and
“experience God” in our relationship with Him when we enter the other
side of eternity. We can experience and know God as King David did as
he said, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man
who trusts in Him!” (**Psalm 34:8**) Nevertheless, we are on a journey
from Baca to Mishkan (I’ll elaborate on that shortly).

As we've examined, through our exposition of some of the Psalms, our Creator, the one true God, wants us to KNOW HIM as our God, our Lord, and as our Savior (in Christ Jesus). He wants us then to seek Him earnestly, so that we may know Him, and trust Him, and honor Him as HE IS the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the one and only Lord God Almighty! For HE IS EL Elyon, the most high God! How that comes about for us is that we are told, that "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that HE IS, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (**Hebrews 11:6**) HE IS a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! That is a definitive (meaning authoritative and complete)¹ promise by God! As God gives to each of us a measure of faith, to believe that HE IS, and then to believe that Jesus died on a cross for our sins, rose from the grave on the third day, conquering death, and thus being The Way (**John 14:6**) for us to be reconciled to God, to where we are to then live our lives in Christ, and that we will inherit eternal life, in Christ. That is what is called an "active faith" and not just a mere philosophy or concept. Once we have been given that measure of faith, it is up to us, as His Spirit works in us, to continue to diligently seek Him, to get to know Him and His ways, to begin to trust Him (as all His ways are perfect), and to honor Him as our Lord, God, and Savior. That all comes about by believing on Christ Jesus and then receiving Him, as **John 1:12-13** says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." That is the beginning of a beautiful and glorious relationship that we have with God, as our Heavenly Father!

Psalms 84 is one of 11 or 12 Psalms attributed to the sons of Korah. One of them is not labeled as a Psalm by the sons of Korah yet it is between 7 others of the sons of Korah and is therefore considered by many to be one of their Psalms. (**Psalms 43**) There is an interesting history behind the sons of Korah, as you may know, and it is truly remarkable, in spite of their infamous lineage, that the sons of Korah have written some of the most impassioned and beautiful words in the Psalms, on par with some of David's writings, you know, the man who was said to be a man after God's own heart. (**1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22**) The first Psalm of the sons of Korah is **Psalms 42** starts out saying, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, "where is your God?"

It's hard for me to believe someone could even say that there is no God. Yet as He has revealed Himself to us, we are told that the great commandment of God's, the perfect will of God, what is God's purpose and pleasure for us, as His children, is to love God with all of our

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/definitive>

heart, soul, strength, and mind and as Jesus Himself said, the second commandment is like unto it, that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. (**Mark 12:30-31**) That means to do unto others as you would want them to do to you. The question for us today in which we can meditate on, and to take to the Lord in prayer, while asking for His mercies and grace, is to have a heart for God and His people—a passion, a longing, and a desire for God and for His people.

What could have been just an embarrassing lineage of the sons of Korah, that could have been like a dark cloud that stayed over them from generation to generation, similar to the heritage of Esau and his descendants, as they were “sons of Korah”, yet they established for themselves a beautiful legacy, as the sons of Korah; those who loved God and longed for Him and honored Him and worshipped Him as their Lord, God, and Savior. “Korah was the grandson of Kohath [Kohath being one of the three sons of Aaron who were in charge of all things pertaining to the tabernacle], and Korah began to run with another group, of Reubenite malcontents, namely, Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On, son of Peleth. In pride, they roused a group of 250 men together to challenge the right of Moses and Aaron to the priesthood (**Numbers 16**). Moses summoned the rebellious men to stand before God and burn incense. God warned Moses to let the assembly know to get away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, their households, and the other rebels. Then a remarkable and terrifying event happened.”² Dathan and Abiram and Korah were then swallowed up by the earth with all of their belongings and the others, of the 250 rebels, were scorched by fire from the Lord. Yet we learn from the narrative of the story that the children were spared, the sons of Korah. (**Numbers 26:11**) Quite a few generations then passed from the time of Korah to “the sons of Korah” who wrote some of the Psalms.

That should bless anyone who grew up in less than godly circumstances. No generational curse can alight on a child of God, one who is in Christ Jesus. “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.” (**Isaiah 54:17**)

Psalms 84 begins, “How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 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.” When tabernacle or temple of God is mentioned some of you may envision what it would look like, maybe even with a steeple, while also picturing what the most grand and glorious building could look like in heaven. I have read that some people are not able to visualize images in their mind, that they can only conceptualize what is being

2 <https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-Korah.html>

described. Whether you may picture a temple in your mind or not, consider this-the Apostle Peter, spoke of the temple of God saying to all who are born of God, meaning all those who have believed on Christ Jesus and received Him, "Coming to Him [Christ] as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

In **1 Peter 2:4-6**, the Apostle Peter, in quoting The Word of God from Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." (**Isaiah 28:16**) Combine that with what is said of Christ Jesus in **Revelation 21**, the Apostle John describes what he sees as the New Jerusalem saying, "But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (**Revelation 21:22-27**) "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (**1 John 5:12**) and Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. That is where we are being led by God, in Christ, through the valley of Baca to His "mishkan", which means, His tabernacle and dwelling place, and then into His "Shekinah" glory.

Do you see it? Or can you at least conceptualize it? Right there is what is comprised of the great commandment of God's, to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then to also love others as ourselves. Our Lord, God, and Savior are the temple of God. As we are IN CHRIST, we are the living stones of His glorious temple. All of the children of God are His precious stones and Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone. It is all symbolic but it speaks to what the Apostle John wrote in his 1st epistle saying, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live **through Him**. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (**1 John 4:7-11**) Getting back to **Psalms 84**, "Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah", says the sons of Korah, and hopefully we all have the wonderful hope in Christ too. As Jesus

prayed, in **John 17**, that we would be one in Him as He is in us-we can and should be dwelling in His temple-in Christ!

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, **whose heart is set on pilgrimage**. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion." That should sound familiar to what the writer(s) of Hebrews said, "herefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us**, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:1-2**)

This is not a sprint, it is a long journey, a pilgrimage, that we are not intended to go on alone, and we are just passing through. That valley of Baca is not a literal valley but actually means a valley of tears. Jesus knew all too well what that meant. He tells us, "**These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**" (**John 16:33**) Those pools of water in the valley of Baca can remind us of Jesus saying to the woman at the well, "**the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**" (**John 4:14**) Praise the Lord, we are not alone and we are just passing through. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death [following Jesus at times through the valley of tears], I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (**Psalms 23:4**) Jesus tells us, "**If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.**" (**John 12:26**)

Back to **Psalms 84**, "O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah. O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed. 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. 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. [following Jesus our Lord and Shepherd] O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!" Spiritually speaking, Jesus is our Strength, He is our Wisdom, and Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) He is our shield and buckler, our Rock, our Fortress, and our Deliverer, (**Psalms 18**) and He alone is our Peace. He is our Way, and Truth, and our Life-from here through eternity. (**John 14:6**) While this place is not our home, our dwelling place is meant to be in Christ Jesus and in the fellowship of His people.

God's over-all plan is this, "Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."
(Ephesians 4:13-16)

There may be pain and sorrow, tears and an occasional broken heart, but one day He will make all things new. "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." **(Revelation 21:3-5)**

"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the [one] who trusts in You", as Jesus leads us from Baca to mishtan and into His Shekinah glory!