



Psalm 48- A Song

A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

- This communal hymn has a strong thematic connection to the previous two Psalms: it too focuses on Jerusalem as God's city and is primarily concerned with a conflict between Israel and the nations where God ultimately saves Israel.
- More than any other Psalm it focuses on the greatness of Jerusalem, but its primary focus is on God, and on Jerusalem as God's city.
- God's greatness is bound up with Mount Zion. This Psalm is appointed as a proper Psalm for Whitsunday. Zion is the type of the Christian Church, and the Psalm which celebrates the glory of Zion and her safety under the care of her Divine protector is an appropriate Psalm for the festival which celebrates the birthday of the Church (See Heb. 13:23ff).

Theme: The security of Zion, the city of God is guaranteed because of the Presence of the God of the city.

I. The Description of City of God (Psa. 48:1-3)

- A. The City of our God
- B. The Mountain of His holiness
- C. Beautiful in Elevation
- D. The Joy of all the Earth
- E. Mt. Zion
- F. The Far North
- G. The City of the Great King

II. The Deliverance of the City of God (Psa. 48:4-8)

III. The Divine Protector of the City (Psa. 48:9-11)

- A. Think about His lovingkindness (v. 9)
- B. He is celebrated universally (v. 10a)
- C. His right hand is full of righteousness (v. 10b)
- D. His children can celebrate because of His judgments (v. 11)

The daughters of Judah are not the maidens of Judah, though the fact that women were accustomed to celebrating victories with dance and song may have suggested the use of the expression, but the cities of Judah, which had been captured, and therefore had special cause for rejoicing at the overthrowing of their captors. Country towns are regarded as "daughters" of the metropolis: (Num. 21:25) "And Israel took all these cities and Israel lived in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all her villages." (Josh. 17:11, 16) "And in Issachar and Asher, Manasseh and Beth-shean and its towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and its towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns, the third is Napheth. The word for towns (or villages) in both cases literally means daughters.

IV. The Declaration of the Invincibility of the God of the City (Psa. 48:12-14) "The inhabitants of Jerusalem had been confined within its walls during the siege: now they can freely walk round, and thankfully contemplate the safety of the walls and towers and palaces so lately menaced with destruction" compare Isaiah 33:20 (Kirkpatrick).

Lessons:

- 1) God's gifts to us find their true meaning in God Himself.
- 2) God's Presence with us does not make us immune to trials.
- 3) But we have guarantee of His eternal protection.
- 4) And our God the LORD and none other will safely guide us unto death.