

Ps 84 9-12-99

verse 1 The tabernacle was of black skins on the exterior. Why would anyone see it as lovely except with a vision of what was within? Inside you are surrounded with white linen. Confronted with the altar of bronze and a recognition that God had provided a way of atonement. That is lovely. Before the Door called truth the priests sing their praises to God. Inside you know the Presence of God resides where all is of gold.

Now look today at the tabernacle. The individual tabernacles make up one big tabernacle. On the outside they are black for they are mostly still residing in Romans 7 where they do not do the things that they would. No the outside is not so lovely. But inside there is the Lord himself who is working on the transformation of the exterior to a life of Romans 8 where the Spirit reigns over the exterior life. Ps 16:3 Is this how you see your brothers and sisters? Are they your delight? or are your eyes looking only on the exterior?

verse 2 What a desire! It reminds us of the deer panting after the water Ps 42 - Why did the psalmist so long for this place of judgement on sin? Why would he desire this place where blood flowed freely? I think it was because he longed to know forgiveness and the assurance of being right with God. His whole being cries out for the living God, not some image or ideology but the living God. When sin has been revealed in our life we who are His are uncomfortable in our whole being until we are made right, until forgiveness is assured. Ps 32:1-5 Then we know the pleasure of His presence.

verse 3 What is this? The birds could nest safely where such a slaughter took place. Even birds were included as a part of sacrifice for the poor who could not afford larger animals. The altar is a place of peace for those of us who find forgiveness there. Is 57:20,21 The wicked cannot rest. Judgement only brings fear. But we who have been to the altar know that if we lose our life we find it. Notice how The psalmist lays hold of God with both hands - my King, my God. He places a personal claim on Him as his own. I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine. We not only want to stay near the altar but we want to be on the altar, a living sacrifice. To be entirely the LORD's is a the only place of safety. He alone is Almighty(Jehovah tsaba) captain of the angelic host.

verse 4 Blessed - happy- are the ones who stay in the house of God. What does it mean to continue in God's house? The psalmist wanted to stay there. When we worship together it is a wonderful experience. Our heart and mind turn toward the Lord and we continue to praise. It is when we go back down into the valley that we are tested and challenged to continue to praise. Can we stay in the God's house as we walk through this world? Is it a physical place today or an attitude of the heart. I enter his courts with praise. Lack of praise may be an indication that we are stepping into the world. This ends the first of the three parts of the Psalm. Selah - stop and think about this. This first part is the desire. It is a vision of what it will be like to be in that place of worship. For those in the days of the Tabernacle and Temple it meant a physical pilgrimage but we have been learning this is all a shadow of today's reality. They wanted to be in that

physical place - we want to be in that spiritual place, a life of praise and worship living in His presence, knowing the sacrifice for sins is paid once for all. Continuing daily in His house, loving the family of God is a place where there is continual praise to God.

verse 5 This second part of three is the pilgrimage. For them it was a pilgrimage to Zion and the tabernacle. Three times a year all the males of Israel were to make the trip if possible. Last week we spoke of our strength in the Lord - Nelly reminded us it is His strength and not our own- and the Scriptures showed us it is a mighty power of Christ. If your strength is your own - good luck. If it is His you are blessed! And where is the pilgrimage today? We are going to a city! We are on our way to New Jerusalem, just like Abraham we aren't satisfied with Sedona. We want one whose builder and maker is God. This world is not our home. So many times in Scripture we are called strangers, aliens. Is your heart set on the pilgrimage? Col 3:1.

verse 6 Judges 2:1-6 It is believed that this refers to the same valley - the Valley of Weeping. Disobedience to God caused it to be named this but it was changed - 2Chron 20:25-27 - The place of weeping became a place of praise. We often meet barren places in our lives because of disobedience. But obedience and praise can change the nature of where we are from a desert to an oasis where we have more than we need. On the way to Jerusalem the pilgrims would sing songs of praise from the Psalms - see Psalms of ascent.

verse 7 As the bands of people got closer to Jerusalem they would be joined by other groups of people. There is strength in numbers from bandits and beasts. The closer they got the stronger they got. Our journey is similar. We meet fellow pilgrims and are encouraged by their walk and faith and so go from strength to strength. Till one day we appear before God in the heavenly city.

verse 8 the journey ends with a prayer to be heard. God is not only capable, commanding the armies of heaven, He is the God of the transformed man Jacob. It is interesting the psalmist chose this patriarch. It is as if he was saying, "you heard Jacob in his selfish frame of mind the first time at Bethel, so I have confidence that You will hear me." This ends the pilgrimage portion of the Psalm. The pilgrimage ends with prayer. - and the instruction to dwell on it.

verse 9 As we enter the Tabernacle we have begun the third portion of the song - the arrival. Psalms 91:4 shield= God's faithfulness Anointed one is King David here but it is also Messiah/Christ Our shield is God's faithfulness, look with favor on Christ my covering. Put on Christ.

verse 10 One day in the courtyard of the Tabernacle where sin is atoned and people are made right with God, where the priests sing praise, can't be compared to anything else. Is that how you feel about worship? Keep searching until you do. He that seeks will find. The sons of Korah were gate keepers and probably the authors of this psalm. They also were singers. Korah died in the rebellion against Moses and the other two that joined him also died along with their families. The grace of God spared the sons of Korah and used them in the service of the Tabernacle. That is true of many of God's children. Their earthly

father was a rebel against God but the grace of God spared them. Are you a son of Korah? Just to watch the door into the holy place is better than any pleasure the world has to offer. I could live in the tent of carnal pleasure - my flesh - but one day in service to my Lord is better than years of worldly pleasure! verse 11 He's the light of the heavenly city, He is our protector, Psalm 91:15,16 The Lord wants to favor us, to honor us-me. Ps 16:2 119:68 His goodness is seen in the lives of his people. He's the light of the heavenly city, He is our protector, Psalm 91:15,16 The Lord wants to favor us, to honor us-me. Ps 16:2 119:68 His goodness is seen in the lives of his people.

verse 12 Here is the key to the song, the summary statement. If you have trust in the Lord your desire will be to live in his presence. You will make the journey and grow stronger in Him as you do. The dry places will be watered with praise that transforms the place you walk. You will know his loving kindness is better than life. 63:3 as you trust him to see Jesus when He looks upon you. You will abide in his presence. That is blessed! That is what the Lord has for each of us.