

Our Guide Even Unto Death

Psalms Forty-Six, Forty-Seven and Forty-Eight

> + + + + + + + <

~ Our Spiritual Safari will continue to consider the prophetic picture of the future earthly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, yet to come on this earth, as we examine a cluster of three small Psalms written by and for the sons of Korah. In our last report, we saw the return of the King of Israel – the Lord Jesus Christ – to establish His millennial Kingdom. Today, a little more thoughtful and attentive study of Psalms would be very helpful to many people; because a proper, correct and complete understanding of dispensation is critical to an overall comprehension of Holy Writ. If you reject dispensation, then you reject the Word of God; it simply cannot be otherwise. This section of Psalms can have a truly wonderful meaning for us *IF – IF - IF* it is rightly divided by and interpreted in the proper prophetic light it offers. Only in that light can we focus correctly. Only then will a complete revelation be unveiled by the Spirit of God.

Many Hebrew scholars have ascribed “*Alamoth*” to mean “*soprano*,” but the root word, “*almah*” means “*virgins*.” It is the same word used in Isaiah chapter seven verse fourteen, where the prophet says, “.... *behold a virgin shall conceive*.” I think this was a temple choir, sung antiphonally by maidens’ voices to the “*Sheminith*” – the male chorus; and it is mentioned in first Chronicles chapter fifteen verse twenty, as well as Psalm six. When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, they sang the song of Moses – but I don’t think Moses would have been much better of a worship leader than I would. We are told in Exodus chapter fifteen verse twenty that “*Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances; and Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.*”

So, on the shoreline of the Red Sea, the children of Israel experienced another type of redemption; but *NOT* redemption by blood! The blood redemption took place the night they came out of Egypt — after the blood was placed on the lintels and doorposts and the Passover Lamb had been

slain. When they crossed the Red Sea, they were redeemed by *POWER*. The enemies that troubled them were erased right before their very eyes. With that in mind, Psalm forty-six hits a ridiculously high note. Surely, there will be broken glass.

We *MUST* keep this Psalm where it belongs, though; because taking it out of its setting in this cluster is a definite mistake. Actually, doing so ultimately misquotes the Word of God – and that’s never a good idea. See, misquoting the Bible can end in this tragic type of example mistake: “.... *a lie is an abomination unto the Lord; but a very present help in time of trouble.*” Sounds funny, right? Well, it’s heresy; and I see people do it all the time. It’s an error that is consistently associated with this Psalm. We had better be super-duper careful about verse-grabbing and stringing together disconnected and irrelevant passages recklessly and irresponsibly, friends; because the devil never quotes Scripture – Satan *ALWAYS* MIS-quotes Scripture....

KLUD ~ (To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamo)

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

~ These first three verses bring us the *sufficiency* of God. Many people say this is just a theory and we cannot know if it is really true. Well, there comes a time when we are challenged to decide if we believe the Bible is the Word of God – or not. If we have trusted Christ, we’ll have experience to rest on. If we genuinely believe the Bible is the Word of God, then we will accept it as inerrant and inspired. However, the most *definite* way to tell if this is true is to try it! I have tried it, friends – and it’s true. You’re going to have to taste of the Lord and see if He is good. If you aren’t willing to make the experiment, then you’ll just never know – it’s really that

simple. Jesus said, *“if any man will do My will he will know of the doctrine, whether it be of God.”* See, we can count on the Lord in times of trouble; and when we call upon His Name, we’ll discover clear and convincing evidence that Christ is most definitely alive.

Unfortunately, contemporary Christians do not seem to learn to trust God in times of trouble. The main reason for that is because they do not know the *sufficiency* of God; they don’t know the sufficiency of God because they have never found Him sufficient in Scripture. Well, only a God that doesn’t fail in extreme circumstances will suffice me. This thing has to be real or it’s a waste of time. Most people think they are the only ones who have ever had any trouble come in their lives. I hope you can learn to trust God this way when that day of trouble rolls around for you, my friends. In this Psalm, God declares we can trust Him. Men and women throughout the ages have found this to be true – and so can you – *if* you will trust and obey. God is a mighty Fortress — as we have seen in previous Psalms....

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

~ Verses four through seven bring us the *security* believers have in God. This may be poetic symbolism, but it is symbolic of things in reality. The river and streams speak of the Word of God supplying refreshment and meeting the needs of God’s saints. Those waters should flow to the farthest reaches in the lands of our lives! Ezekiel and Zechariah both spoke of a river flowing out from the throne of God with great blessings. The river in this Psalm is as real as the Mississippi River; or any other flowing body of water on the face of the earth. The blessed man is like a tree planted by those rivers and streams. In the New Jerusalem, we’re told about a new river of

the water of life, clear as crystal, and proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb. Jesus said to the woman at the well, “.... *he who believeth on Me shall have from his innermost being flow living water.*” These are some beautiful pictures we’re seeing now. The forces of judgment are gone, and out flows rivers and streams of living water....

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

~ The final four verses of Psalm forty-six reveal the *supremacy* of God Almighty. This has both the lowest level that God appeals to man on — creation; but it also has the highest level God appeals to man on — and that is spiritual. This sets before us the last days — when the One Who is the Stone cut out without hands — who Nebuchadnezzar saw in his vision — has dealt an annihilating blow upon the earth. After the Battle of Armageddon, the dead will be strewn everywhere, and the wreckage of warfare will be overwhelming! The works of God alone should tell man there is a God; and God’s works just happen to be what keeps the atheist consumed with rejecting and attempting to disprove God, by the way. But, let’s move on.

Well, after the horrors of all those things, peace will finally come to the earth and become a blessed reality. The Lord Jesus will take His Throne as the King, and all unrighteous rebellion will be crushed. God *WILL* be exalted among all the nations of the earth, friends. That is His future plan and purpose. These truths allow an obedient believer to remain calm in this present evil world. Naturally, you and I live in a wicked and mean world today; even nature, with its tremendous convulsions and unpredictability, is volatile and deadly. God says to remain calm in the time of the storm.

Remember, Jesus was in the boat in the storm with the disciples, and He would have slept right through it. Jesus had more difficulty calming the apostles than He had calming the storm! Well, God still has that same trouble with many of us. Very few of us know what it means to wait patiently before the Lord while trusting in obedience. This Psalm should be a great comfort and blessing to all of us today; it will certainly be that to the nation Israel in the future....

KLVD ~ (To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah)

1 O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

2 For the LORD most high is awe inspiring; he is a great King over all the earth.

3 He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

4 He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

~ Psalm forty-seven is another Millennial Kingdom Psalm that continues in praise and worship of God. This Psalm is going to be a great blessing in the future to the nation Israel; and it is a blessing for God's people today, too. However, in Psalm forty-seven, Christ is seated on His Throne, ruling and reigning physically and literally over all the earth from Jerusalem! The self-conceit, arrogance, lawlessness against God, and the abject rebellion towards the Lord Jesus Christ, has been literally crushed at this time; and the earth is praising Him for doing so. A wonderful picture of glory and majesty is mercifully set before us.

Our Christmas song "*Joy to the World*" is not a hymn that speaks of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. It speaks of His *second advent*; in which Christ establish His Kingdom. See, there will be a joy on the earth that is conspicuously absent today. Now, I'm not a sing-song person – mainly because I cannot sing – and I don't even clap my hands to the church music;

but, frankly, we need a little bit more enthusiasm in our worship. What we refer to today as “reverence” is usually “deadness.” I know I am guilty of this. Well, the people in the cemetery aren’t disturbing anyone or anything; we need someone who actually believes what they are saying, singing, and teaching – and that person will always be wrongfully perceived as “angry” or something like that. Trust me: I just happen to know what I am talking about here....

5 God is gone up amid shouting, the LORD is gone up amid the sound of a loud trumpet.

~ If God has ascended, that necessarily means He has previously descended. The Lord Jesus came to this earth two thousand years ago – born in Bethlehem – and He ascended back to Heaven; as we have already seen in Psalms. This is yet another ascension; whereby the Lord is going to travel back and forth between the New Jerusalem and the earth. That means we are going to have a highway that Isaiah spoke of in chapter thirty-five verse eight of his prophecy, when he said, “.... *an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.*” Well, that highway is going to be busier than any freeway you have ever seen down here – but with one difference: there won’t be any back-up....

6 Sing songs unto God, sing songs: sing them in praise to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye songs for instruction.

8 God reigneth over the nations: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

9 The willing-hearted of the people are gathered together, even the willing people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is to be greatly exalted.

XLVD ~ (A Song and Psalm for the sons of Korah)

1 Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His Holy mountain of His government.

2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

3 God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together.

5 They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were terror stricken, and hasted away.

6 Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail.

7 Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah.

9 We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

10 According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

11 Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.

13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following.

14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with another Psalm that belongs in this cluster – Psalm forty-eight – that is a Psalm of the millennial Kingdom celebrating Messiah’s total and complete victory over the rebellion. When the Bible says Mount Zion in verse two, it means Mount Zion, Israel, friends – not Zion, Utah. When we talk about the City of God, and the Holy Mountain of His government, we’re talking about Jerusalem – not New York. *“On the sides of the north”* in verse two is an interesting expression, too. It speaks of a way of ascent and descent to this earth. In Isaiah chapter fourteen, Satan said, *“.... I will ascend into Heaven and exalt my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of the congregation IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH!”*

Satan honestly believes he is going to overthrow God and hijack the route we are talking about. But, the devil is woefully mistaken; and this final Psalm details the last great battle to take place on earth. Even Satan himself will be terror stricken; and all of his strength will be broken. Personally, I feel this speaks of a time *after* the millennium; when the devil is released for a season, and the Lord Jesus goes forth and drives him from the face of the earth for eternity. This is a tremendous section of Scripture; you’ll need to read it for your own instruction. The nation Israel has heard and read all of this from their prophets, and they are seeing the literal accomplishment of it during the specific time period we are considering. That is when all of the promises God has ever made will be fully realized; and it certainly does have a truthful meaning for us in our modern lives today, too ~

> + + + + + + + <