

# The SONGS OF ZION

## DISCUSSION

"ANCIENT PEOPLES CONNECTED THE GLORY OF A GOD WITH THE PLACE WHERE HE DWELT. THAT ASSOCIATION IS CLEAR IN THIS PSALM. THE HOLY MOUNTAIN WHERE [GOD'S] ARK RESIDED REFLECTED GOD'S GREATNESS."

- DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE

1. What is the point (or theme) of this psalm?
2. What does it mean that God is great and is to be greatly praised? How have you greatly praised God lately?
3. The area surrounding Jerusalem had other mountains where other gods were worshipped. One such mountain was Mt. Zaphon, where Baal was worshipped. How might this fact have influenced the psalmist to record verses 2-3? More specifically, why is it important to know that God is not just worshipped on Mt. Zion but that His presence dwelt there?
4. Verses 4-6 show that invading armies fled in a panic once they came to Jerusalem and attacked it. How would the retreat of an enemy be seen as a way God is providing for His people?
5. In verses 10 and 11, we see the psalmist's meditation (filling of mind/thinking upon) produced praise. In fact, the meditation of God's righteousness and love produced a praise that was far reaching. What characteristics or provisions of God can you meditate upon today? Share with the group and spend time meditating upon each of these things that you share as a group.
6. Is there anything else that stands out to you in this psalm that you would like to discuss?

## PSALM 48 {ESV}

1 GREAT IS THE LORD AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED IN THE CITY OF OUR GOD! HIS HOLY MOUNTAIN,

2 BEAUTIFUL IN ELEVATION, IS THE JOY OF ALL THE EARTH, MOUNT ZION, IN THE FAR NORTH, THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

3 WITHIN HER CITADELS GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN AS A FORTRESS.

4 FOR BEHOLD, THE KINGS ASSEMBLED; THEY CAME ON TOGETHER.

5 AS SOON AS THEY SAW IT, THEY WERE ASTOUNDED; THEY WERE IN PANIC; THEY TOOK TO FLIGHT.

6 TREMBLING TOOK HOLD OF THEM THERE, ANGUISH AS OF A WOMAN IN LABOR.

7 BY THE EAST WIND YOU SHATTERED THE SHIPS OF TARSHISH.

8 AS WE HAVE HEARD, SO HAVE WE SEEN IN THE CITY OF THE LORD OF HOSTS, IN THE CITY OF OUR GOD, WHICH GOD WILL ESTABLISH FOREVER. **SELAH**

9 WE HAVE THOUGHT ON YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, O GOD, IN THE MIDST OF YOUR TEMPLE.

10 AS YOUR NAME, O GOD, SO YOUR PRAISE REACHES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. YOUR RIGHT HAND IS FILLED WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS.

11 LET MOUNT ZION BE GLAD! LET THE DAUGHTERS OF JUDAH REJOICE BECAUSE OF YOUR JUDGMENTS!

12 WALK ABOUT ZION, GO AROUND HER, NUMBER HER TOWERS,

13 CONSIDER WELL HER RAMPARTS, GO THROUGH HER CITADELS, THAT YOU MAY TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

14 THAT THIS IS GOD, OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. HE WILL GUIDE US FOREVER.