

The SONGS OF ZION

DISCUSSION

"THIS PSALM, LIKE PSALMS 42 AND 43, EXPRESSES THE WRITER'S DESIRE FOR THE LORD'S SANCTUARY, SO IT IS A PSALM OF ZION... IN IT, THE WRITER DECLARED THE BLESSED CONDITION OF THOSE WHO GO TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY TO YAHWEH. "

- DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE

1. What is the point (or theme) of this psalm?
2. Think for just a moment about something that you consider lovely. Now describe it to the group. Now, tell the group why that "thing" is lovely.

Have you ever considered being in the presence of God to be "lovely"? Why or why not?

3. What does the author (attributed to the Sons of Korah) mean when he says "blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion"?

What does it mean to have your strength in God? Is this a concept that is difficult or easy for you? Why is that?

4. We learn from multiple places in Scripture about the Sons of Korah. From one such section we see that they are assigned to be doorkeepers at the Temple of God (1 Chronicles 26:1-19). As one author puts it "Temple gatekeepers were in charge of who went in and who went out. They ensured order and reverence for God's house."

What might verse 10 illustrate about the Sons of Korah's view regarding serving in God's Temple? How might you view your service in terms of nearness to God? Where do you currently serve? Would you like to serve in any additional place? Why is that?

5. Is there anything else that stands out to you in this psalm that you would like to discuss?

PSALM 84 {ESV}

- 1 HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE, O LORD OF HOSTS!
- 2 MY SOUL LONGS, YES, FAINTS FOR THE COURTS OF THE LORD; MY HEART AND FLESH SING FOR JOY TO THE LIVING GOD.
- 3 EVEN THE SPARROW FINDS A HOME, AND THE SWALLOW A NEST FOR HERSELF, WHERE SHE MAY LAY HER YOUNG, AT YOUR ALTARS, O LORD OF HOSTS, MY KING AND MY GOD.
- 4 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DWELL IN YOUR HOUSE, EVER SINGING YOUR PRAISE!
- 5 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE STRENGTH IS IN YOU, IN WHOSE HEART ARE THE HIGHWAYS TO ZION.
- 6 AS THEY GO THROUGH THE VALLEY OF BACA THEY MAKE IT A PLACE OF SPRINGS; THE EARLY RAIN ALSO COVERS IT WITH POOLS.
- 7 THEY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH; EACH ONE APPEARS BEFORE GOD IN ZION.
- 8 O LORD GOD OF HOSTS, HEAR MY PRAYER; GIVE EAR, O GOD OF JACOB!
- 9 BEHOLD OUR SHIELD, O GOD; LOOK ON THE FACE OF YOUR ANOINTED!
- 10 FOR A DAY IN YOUR COURTS IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND ELSEWHERE. I WOULD RATHER BE A DOORKEEPER IN THE HOUSE OF MY GOD THAN DWELL IN THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS.
- 11 FOR THE LORD GOD IS A SUN AND SHIELD; THE LORD BESTOWS FAVOR AND HONOR. NO GOOD THING DOES HE WITHHOLD FROM THOSE WHO WALK UPRIGHTLY.
- 12 O LORD OF HOSTS, BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN YOU!