

Our Safe Haven

Psalms 84

Of all of the psalms in the Bible, eleven are attributed to the sons of Korah. These beautiful psalms express a spirit of great gratitude and humility to an awesome, mighty God. They express a longing for God and deep devotion. These poetic songs include Psalms 42—50, 62, and 72—85. Psalm 42:1 contains the beautiful line, "As the deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God." Psalm 84:1 states, "How lovely is your dwelling place, O God." Psalm 46:1–3 conveys the powerful message, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

One wonders if the poet who penned these lyrics was remembering his ignoble beginnings, his distant ancestor who perished in an earthquake for his pride and rebellion. Perhaps it was that reflection that prompted the following words of the same psalm: "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth'" (Psalm 46:10). For each of us, our own songs of renewed purpose and redemption should flow out of a heart of humility as we remember the fallen state from which He raised us and the redemption that we experience through His grace. This was certainly the case for the sons of Korah. (gotquestions.org)

1 Chron. 25:1

1 Chron. 9:19-21

1 Chron. 26:6

- I. God puts in those who love him a deep longing to be with him. He loves to bless those of us who dwell in his sanctuary with the joy of his presence, as we gather corporately to worship and honor the one and only true King, Jesus Christ. The joy that he gives us through *koinonia* helps to settle our souls.

Psalm 84:1-4

Heb. 11:13-16

1 Jn. 3:1-3

Ps. 27:4

Ps. 74:25

"The poet simply saw birds at the temple, and his point was that as the birds made their home at the temple and were secure there with no fear of enemies, so may the people of God make their home in God and find their security in him." Boice

- II. God puts in those who love him a deep longing for their heavenly dwelling. He blesses those of us who choose to let him be our strength through the many pitfalls this life brings, by setting our hearts on pilgrimage *"to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God."*

Psalm 84:5-9

Hebrews 12:22-24

- III. God puts in those who love him, a deep trust in knowing that *"in all things God works for the good of those who love him"* (Rom. 8:28). He blesses those of us who chose to trust him in all things with peace and contentment in knowing that he is taking very good care of us no matter our lot in life. May he be forever praised!

Psalm 84:8-12

"If we want rest, let us clasp God as ours; if we desire a home warm, safe, sheltered from every wind that blows, and inaccessible to enemies, let us, like the swallows, nestle under the eaves of the Temple. Let us take God for our hope." Maclaren