



Cover to Cover: Lament (Ps 84)

June 3

Psalm Review

Context: We had choices for today's study, what choices! Since we've delved into some laments of late, let us rise to the heights of praise in this beloved Psalm. This Psalm is written to the Temple choirmaster by the Levitical descendants of Korah. It is set to a tune or to be played on an instrument called a "gittith" (?) The Psalm celebrates the free access the believer has to God's presence through pilgrimage to the Temple and the blessing associated with that and was most likely written during the time of the Kings. No reward of the wicked can compare with the joy and pleasure of God's presence! We'll consider 3 themes from our Psalm, each a beatitude of sorts.

First, think about Pastor's sermon from this past Lord's Day:

- What stood out to you from Psalm 14 (and Rom 3)?
- What did you learn about atheists that you didn't know before?
- What is atheism?
- How can we seek to reach atheists with the Gospel?

Read: Psalm 84

Questions

1. Like the beatitudes (Mt 5), what does it mean to be blessed?
2. What 3 things are the blessings connected with?

vv. 1–4: Blessed are those who dwell in God's courts

1. What words in these verses refer to the Temple and how so?
2. *Under the Old Covenant the Temple represented several functions: sacrifices for worship and atonement for sin, God's presence on earth, prayer and teaching.* Under the New Covenant, why did Jesus say the Temple is obsolete (Jn 2:19)? How are these four functions of the Temple replaced under the New Covenant?
3. Worship was a key feature of the Temple. What words tip us off to the worshipful spirit of the pilgrim here?

4. How would you describe worship? Musical worship?
 5. If God is the living God how can we but worship?
 6. V. 3- One of my favourite books is called, *The Birds, our Teachers*, by John Stott. How are birds used as symbols of spiritual truths throughout the Bible? How are they used here?
 7. V. 4- Why are worshippers blessed?
- vv. 5–9: Blessed are those who journey to Zion
8. *Mt. Zion was the location on which the Temple existed and hence why Jerusalem is often referred to as Zion. This was the term for God's dwelling place on earth under the Old Covenant.* If God dwells on earth by His Spirit, where or who is God's representative on earth under the New Covenant?
 9. *V. 6- As worshippers' journey they passed through the valley of Baca (or Valley of Weeping). This probably refers to the challenge of journeying to the Temple, or of the sorrows the worshipper carried to the Temple. They either love the ways there, though they be difficult, because they end in joy, or this refers to the burdens the worshipper carries, which through worship are turned to joy.*
 10. V. 5 & 7- How are strength and worship intertwined?
 11. Since God dwelt in the Temple it was a place of prayer (c.f. Mt 21:13), vv. 8–9, upon what grounds are the pilgrims prayers based?
 12. Is there such a thing as sacred or consecrated space or ground?
 13. Is there any need to be in a place to worship? What place does public/corporate worship serve that private/individual worship can never substitute?
- vv. 10–12: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord
14. Why 1:1000 is it better to be in God's presence, even better to be a doorkeeper than a guest among the wicked? (v. 11 provides the answer!). Do you share this sentiment?
 15. V. 12- How are faith and worship and blessing intertwined?

How do you become this person of blessing today?

If you have already done this, is there anything impeding or blocking the blessings described here?