

# “MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY”

## Psalm 48

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### INTRODUCTION

As we saw in Psalms 46 and 47, the historical background of these 3 psalms seems to be the incident described in II K. 18-19—the attack of Assyria against Judah under the reign of good and godly king Hezekiah. In 701 BC. Assyria had made a two pronged attack on Judah from the north and south and had thoroughly destroyed the cities and villages of the land and only Jerusalem was left. Sennacherib sent a large army to Jerusalem under several of his generals, one of whom was a man named Rabshakeh. One flank of the army was to the north of Jerusalem, another large contingent was to the south. Hezekiah was trapped like a bird in a cage with nowhere to go for help and no way to get help. All the other significant nations about Judah had been defeated by Assyria, and now Rabshakeh demanded that Hezekiah surrender or he, his people, and his beautiful capital city would be thoroughly destroyed. **He mocked the very idea that Israel’s [Judah’s] God would be able to deliver them in this crisis. NO OTHER NATION’S god HAD BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER THEM FROM THE VICIOUS MIGHT AND POWER OF ASSYRIA!**

But remember psalm 46? “**Fear not**, for I will deliver you and defeat Assyria and send the king back home by the way he came!” “Be still, and know that I am God!” (46:10) And, God came through as we saw. The Angel of the Lord came and destroyed 185,000 members of the army of the Assyrians and Sennacherib had to go home like a defeated puppy dog (II K. 19:35-36).

**Is it any wonder that strong patriotic feelings were aroused in the sons of Korah who gave us this psalm?**

The psalmist gives us four primary divisions to the psalm; then I give application to us:

- 1) *God is the resident King of Jerusalem—Our Glory is found in our Indwelling Lord (1-3).*
- 2) *Earthly kings who oppose God and his people suffer defeat—No enemies can defeat us as we rest in Him! (4-8).*
- 3) *Praise to God for his righteous judgments—We must praise Him for His Just and righteous ways (9-11).*
- 4) *Zion’s continued exaltation—Such a Glorious God will never leave us—He will guide us until death and beyond! (12-14).*

One important fact to notice here is that what is said about Jerusalem and the temple on earth goes way beyond what is true of them and takes us prophetically to the Millennium and to the New Jerusalem, the capital city of God in Heaven!

**YOU MUST KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU—and you will have victory in Him.**

- I. OUR GLORY IS FOUND IN OUR INDWELLING LORD (1-3)
  - A. Jerusalem is glorious
    1. “Beautiful in elevation” [yet, the picture goes beyond the height of Jerusalem]
    2. “The joy of the entire Earth” [that was not yet true in Hezekiah’s day]
    3. “In the far north”—recesses of the north. [such was not really true of earthly Jerusalem, except that the Temple mount was in the NE corner of the city] Compare Is. 14:13 and the ancient mythology of the mountain of the gods—a perversion of spiritual reality!
  - B. But God is her true Glory!
    1. He is Great, and greatly deserves praise.
    2. Jerusalem is **His city** (twice) and **He lives there!**
    3. On this “**holy mountain**” His temple has been built and He manifests His presence there.
    4. He is the “great King” who rules over the city, nation, and the whole Earth. He lives in her palaces (cf. Ps. 47).
    5. He is the “**stronghold, fortress**” of the city and nation.

- II. NO ENEMIES CAN DEFEAT US AS WE REST IN HIM (4-8)
- A. The Attack of Our Enemies (4-7)
1. Kings assembled [puppet kings under Assyrian ruler] and passed by (4).
  2. They saw the city, amazed by God's power, terrified, fled in alarm. [structure of sentence--5]
  3. Panic and anguish seized them like women in childbirth (6—these macho men became like women).
  4. God destroyed them like He has done through a powerful East wind with “ships of Tarshish” in the past—the most powerful ships on the sea (7).
- B. The Manifestation of the Power of God (8)
1. We have *heard with our ears*: cf. the plaintive Ps. 44:1 with 44:9.
  2. Now we also *see with our eyes*! [We walk by faith, not by sight; yet God does eventually bring the reality of the fulfillment of our faith!]
  3. The city is that of the **LORD OF HOSTS**, our **GOD**!
- C. God establishes his City and People forever!
- III. WE MUST PRAISE HIM FOR HIS JUST AND RIGHTEOUS WAYS (9-11)
- A. Think on His loyal love while we assemble to worship Him [in His temple; remember all that He has done to manifest His covenant faithfulness—“*Great is thy faithfulness.*”] (9)
- B. God's **praise** will one day match His Name—to the ends of the Earth—all Earth's people (10).
- C. **Be glad, you his people**—Mount Zion, capital city, and the “daughters of Judah—cities and villages (11).
- D. God's right hand of power is full of **righteousness** (He always acts in harmony with His laws and perfect nature; 10b); and he passes proper **judgments**, delivering the godly and punishing the wicked (11b).
- IV. SUCH A GLORIOUS GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US—HE WILL GUIDE US UNTIL DEATH AND BEYOND! (12-14)
- A. Walk about—examine what God has done (12-13)
1. The enemy army now is gone; it is safe to do so, like Joshua and his people walked about Jericho.
  2. Count her towers of strong defense (12)
  3. Consider—set your heart toward—her ramparts of extra fortification (13).
  4. Pass through and mark her palaces (13).  
*God has kept everything intact. We are secure!*
- B. Bear witness to the next generation (13).
- C. **It is all about God!** [Not about our defenses, our city, our victory, our glories and riches!]  
—v. 14.
1. This is God.
  2. He is *our* God.
  3. He is our God **forever and ever!**
  4. He will *guide us* until, or in spite of, DEATH. [Nothing, not even death can overcome us when God is our God!] **We are more than conquerors!**

## CONCLUSION

Yes, I am patriotic; you probably are too. But, as we can see, this passage is about God—not country!

God dwells in us when we are saved! He will never leave us nor forsake us.

No earthly power—the world, the flesh, nor the devil can defeat us. We are secure!

We must rejoice in the amazing salvation that is ours and praise Him with all of our hearts!

He is just and righteous and always does what is best. [What is true of Judah is true also for NT believers.]

**YOU MUST KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU—and you will have victory in Him.**