

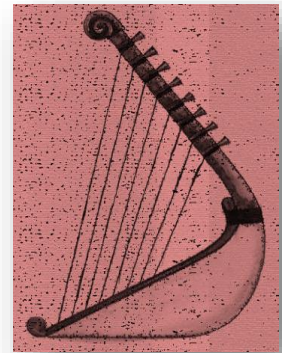
PSALM 84 vs 1

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That choice band of singers: the sons of Korah; they were spared by sovereign grace, when their father and all his company, and all the children of his associates were swallowed up alive (Numbers 27); preserved, we know not why, by the favor of God. It may be surmised that afterward, they were so filled with gratitude that they were driven to sacred music in order that their lives might be consecrated to the glory of God – Charles Spurgeon.

Division: the most noble song is in three parts, (1-4); then building off the first (5-8); finally, acknowledging our great God (9-12).



For the Chief musician; on the Gittith

A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

² My soul longs, yes, even yearns for the courts of the LORD:

my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³ Yes, the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in Your house: they are always praising You.

Selah, pause and think about it. "My soul longs"... he needed no clatter of bells from the belfry to ring him in; pilgrimages were a feature of Jewish life; families travelled together making bands which grew at each halting place; they camped in sunny glades, sang in unison along the roads; and toiled together over hill and through the marsh as they went along, storing up memories which would never be forgotten. He envied the sparrows who would swoop in and pick up the crumbs in its courts; he envied the swallows who made their nests under its eaves. To come and go is refreshing, but to abide in the place of prayer must be heaven – what must it mean to be a guest of God? The children of God are ever full of praise for God – Charles Spurgeon.

⁵ Blessed is the one whose strength is in You; in whose heart are Your ways,

⁶ who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the early rain also fills the pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength, each one appears before God in Zion.

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: listen, O God of Jacob.

Selah, pause and think about it. Those who love the ways of God are blessed; His truthful ways are lofty; His ways are joy, and love, and peace. Navigating joyfully along the road to the great assembly; the pilgrims find refreshment even in the dreariest part of the road: through the valley of weeping; the vale of tears;

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they choose not to sit down in the heat of the day; rather they make it a refreshing spring full of love for one another. And notice, whatever was missing is suddenly filled in; allowing them to go from faith to greater faith, from love to greater love, from strength to greater strength, assuring each sojourner makes it to Zion.

⁹ Behold, O God our Shield, and regard the face of Your Anointed / literally, Your Messiah.

¹⁰ For better is a day in Your courts than a thousand somewhere else.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in tents of wrongdoers.

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD gives grace and glory:

no good will He withhold from those who walk upright.

¹² O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who leans on You.

Think about it. "God is a sun and shield"; the sun to drive the rain and cold away; the shield to drive the foes away; the sun for the happy day; the shield for the dangerous day; pilgrims need both for the journey; as the sun is our source of light; so our great God enlightens our minds and hearts; chasing away the dark. The pilgrim nation found both sun and shield in that fiery pillar of cloud, which was the symbol of YHWH's presence. What a wide promise! Some apparent good may be withheld, but no real good; God has all good, there is no good apart from Him; and there is no good which He either needs to keep back or will on any account refuse us, if we are ready to receive it. "All things are yours, and you are Christ's and Christ is God's" this is true, not of a favored few, but of all the saints for evermore -- Charles Spurgeon.

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[I Could Sing of Your Love Forever](#)

[The Sheep Hear His Voice And They Follow Him](#)

[We Came From Where?](#) | [The Spirit and the Bride Say Come](#)