PSALMS 47-49

REVIEW…

- **Psalm** **44** – VICTORY
  from the Lord
  - Israel had HEARD about
    the mighty works of
    GOD in the PAST…
  - Yet although they
    talked about GOD
    – the name of the LORD
    is never
    mentioned…
  - As a RESULT – they
    were ABANDONED –
    SCATTERED –
    MOCKED –
    DISHONORED –
    and CONFUSED!
  - But it was through those
    TRIALS – the
    call people learned to
    out to GOD for
    VICTORY!
- **Psalm** **45 –** A LOVE song
  - The Psalmist wrote a
    LOVE letter between
    Israel and God…
    - Amazed by
      His GRACE – His
      POWER – His
      DEITY – and His
      RICHES…
  - Those who LISTEN to
    him – become His
    CHILDREN – and
    be clothed in His
    RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- **Psalm** **46 –** God our
  REFUGE
  - We are SAFE in the
    LORD – we are
    IMMOVABLE when
    we put our TRUST in
    Him…

- Because GOD sits on His THRONE – when He speaks the earth MELTS…
- Therefore – be STILL – and LOOK up and see the LORD!

Psalm 47 – Worship the King

- **1st – Worship the LORD… vs. 1**
  - 1st – Introduction… vs. 1
    - To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah!
    - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – the WORSHIP leader…
    - The FIFTH of ELEVEN Psalms written by the sons of Korah!
  - 2nd – WORSHIP the LORD… vs. 1
    - Oh - clap your hands - all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
    - CLAP [imperative] your hands – ALL the PEOPLE [הָעַמִּים] – the people of God…
    - SHOUT [hiphil] with your VOICE because God has OVERCOME [triumph]!
    - If we have a FAVORITE basketball team - and they WIN the finals…
    - We are going to JUMP up and SHOUT – maybe CLAP out hands because of the VICTORY!
    - In light of that it can be interesting to see how people WORSHIP God…
    - Quite – almost looking a bit embarrassed – not wanting to draw attention to themselves…
    - It makes one wonder if – ether we do not KNOW that we have VICTORY in Jesus…
    - Or perhaps we are just not that excited that we have been given NEW life…
    - We should be LOUD when we WORSHIP – CLAP and SHOUT – we have VICTORY!
- **2nd – The reason we WORSHIP… vs. 2-9**
  - 1st – The LORD is KING… vs. 2
    - For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is a great King over all the earth!
      - The LORD [יְהוָה] who is above all – is to be FEARED [awesome]
      - He is the [מְאֹד] KING of kings [over all the earth] – **Revelation 19:16**
      - Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords…
    - At the end of the SEVEN years of Tribulation…
      - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
      - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings and Lord of Lords…
      - He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
      - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8**
      - Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4**
      - We WORSHIP the LORD – because He is coming back to RULE the whole earth!
  - 2nd – Our INHERITANCE… vs. 3-4
    - He will subdue the peoples under us and the nations under our feet.

- He will choose our inheritance for us. the excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah!
- Jesus will cause [hiphil] the nations to RETREAT [subdue] – be under our FEET…
- He will CHOSE our INHERITANCE for us – the BEST for Jacob [Israel] who He always loved!
- In the MILLENNIAL Kingdom there will be PEACE – the lion and the lamb – **Isaiah 11:6-9**
- Death will still be possible – but men will live to be much older than they do now….
- A man may even be able to live through the entire 1000 years – **Isaiah 65:20**
- We WORSHIP the LORD – because of the INHERITANCE He will give to us…
- We will RULE with Jesus over the world - **Revelation 20:4 - I Corinthians 6:2**
- Apparently we do not get to PICK – He will CHOSE our inheritance for us…
- The BEST will be saved for Israel – they will rule in the city of JERUSALEM
- **Revelation 2:26-27** - "He who overcomes - and keeps My works until the end - to him I will give power over the nations... He shall rule them with a rod of iron..."

○ 3rd – His THRONE… vs. 5-8

- God has gone up with a shout - the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
  - God [יְשׁוּעָה] went UP with a SHOUT – the sound of the TRUMPET…
  - Likely a reference to Jesus – who went UP to heaven – **Acts 1:9**
  - Who was received in heaven with SHOUTS and SHOFAR [שׁוֹפָר] blast…
  - Because the KING had come home in VICTORY – to sit upon His THRONE – **Romans 8:34**
- Sing praises to God - sing praises! Sing praises to our King - sing praises!
  - FOUR times we are COMMANDED [imperative] to sing PRAISES [piel] to our God and KING…
  - We are given THREE reasons why we MUST praise our God!
- For God is the King of all the earth. Sing praises with understanding!
  - You never want to UPSET the BOSS – make the one in CHARGE happy…
  - It is WISE [understanding] to WORSHIP the LORD – because He is the KING over all!
- God reigns over the nations!
  - It does not make any difference if we believe in God or not…
  - He RULES over the nations [גּוֹיִם] – believers and unbelievers alike…
  - Every knee will BOW and confess Jesus as LORD – **Romans 14:11**
- God sits on His holy throne!
  - Because He SITS on His [קֹדֶשׁ] HOLY throne – meaning He is in CONTROL…
  - Whatever happens in this life – is caused by – or allowed by God…
  - We WORSHIP the LORD – because He is SOVEREIGN over everything!
  - **Ephesians 1:11** – "According to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."

○ 4th – His REIGN… vs. 9

- The princes of the people have gathered together. The people of the God of Abraham.

- For the shields of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted!
- All the LEADERS [princes] are brought [niphal] to the people of the God of Abraham…
- All the KINGS [shields] of the earth belong to God – He is VERY high!
- When we got stuck in Japan – and could not return to the PI because of COVID lockdowns…
- Our plane tickets were canceled THIRTEEN times - I spent DAYS on the phone…
- The problem was I could not get a hold of anyone in CHARGE who could help!
- All the LEADERS and KINGS of this world are UNDER the authority of our God…
- If we are looking to ANY other LEADER – we are going to be frustrated...
- We WORSHIP the LORD – because there is no one HIGHER!

Psalm 48 – The CITY of the KING

- **1st – The CITY of God… vs. 1-3**
  - 1st – Introduction… vs. 1
    - A Song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah!
    - A SONG – something meant to SING to in the WORSHIP of our LORD…
    - The SIXTH of ELEVEN Psalms written by the sons of Korah!
  - 2nd – The LOCATION… vs. 1-2
    - Great is the LORD - and greatly to be praised. In the city of our God in His holy mountain.
    - Beautiful in elevation - the joy of the whole earth.
    - Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north - the city of the great King!
    - Because the LORD [יְהוָה] is GREAT- as we saw in **Psalm 47** – we intensely [pual] PRAISE Him…
    - But the Psalmist focuses on WHERE we should PRAISE the LORD – SIX descriptions:
    - CITY of God – no question is a reference to the City of Jerusalem – **II Chronicles 33:7**
    - HOLY [קֹדֶשׁ] mountain – likely a reference to Mount Moriah – the Temple – **II Chronicles 3:1**
    - BEAUTIFUL in elevation – Jerusalem is 734 meters high – you always go UP to Jerusalem…
    - JOY of the whole earth – people rejoice in Jerusalem because of WHO it belongs to – the LORD
    - Mount ZION - an alternative name for the City of Jerusalem – **II Samuel 5:7**
    - City of the great KING – make no mistake – Jerusalem belongs to the LORD!

- This does NOT mean it is better to WORSHIP in Jerusalem…
- Many people have the misconception that WHERE we WORSHIP matters…
- As if WORSHIP in church is somehow more powerful than WORSHIP at home!
- God does not care about geography – He wants us to pray EVERYWHERE!
- God is not concerned about WHERE we WORSHIP – He wants to make sure that we WORSHIP!

- 3rd – The INHABITANT… vs. 3
  - God is in her palaces. He is known as her refuge!
  - There is NOTHING special about the city of Jerusalem – a pile of rocks…
  - It has not natural resources – it is located in an out of the way place…
  - It is not about the CITY – it is who lives in the CITY…
  - God is in JERUSALEM – that what makes it KNOWN [יָדַע] as a REFUGE!
  - WORSHIP is NOT about where we are – it is about who is in us…
  - We can WORSHIP the LORD anywhere – because the LORD is in us – **John 14:23**

- **2ND – THE FEAR OF NATIONS… VS. 4-8**
  - 1st – The kings of the earth… vs. 4
    - For behold - the kings assembled - they passed by together.
    - BEHOLD – God brought kings together [niphal] – and made them pass by Jerusalem…
    - Jerusalem is one of the OLDEST cities in the world…
    - It has been attacked FIFTY TWO times over the centuries…
    - From Pharaohs – Nebuchadnezzar – Alexander – Caesars – to Muslims and Nazis…
    - Pretty much all of history has marched by the gates of this CITY…
    - Yet – it still stands as the ETERNAL city of God – the capital of Israel!
  - 2nd – Their REACTION… vs. 5-7
    - They saw it - and so they marveled. They were troubled - they hastened away.
    - Fear took hold of them there - and pain - as of a woman in birth pangs.
    - As when You break the ships of Tarshish with an east wind!
    - EVERY king who has ever dared to come against Jerusalem has met the same fate…
    - They are amazed when they first see it – perhaps because it is NOT very impressive…
    - Kings think it is NOT going to be a very hard place to CONQUER…

- But in the END – they are TERRIFIED [niphal] by it – and are forced to FLEE [niphal]
- FEAR seized them – like a women who is going into LABOR [no stopping what is coming]
- Like when a sudden TYPHOON [east wind] shatters [piel] mighty sailing ships!
- NO king has EVER been able to hold onto Jerusalem…
- EVERY king who has tried – no longer has a KINGDOM – they were shattered…
- When was the last time you met a BABYLONIAN – or a ROMAN!
- Every nation who has ever come against Israel – has been humbled!
- God blesses those who bless Israel - He curses those who curse Israel – to this very day!
- **Genesis 12:3** – "I will bless those who bless you - I will curse him who curses you."

○ 3rd – Established forever… vs. 8

- As we have heard - so we have seen in the city of the LORD of hosts.
  - In the city of our God. God will establish it forever. Selah!
  - HISTORY has TOLD us – we have SEEN over the years…
  - Jerusalem is the CITY of the LORD of Hosts [צְבָאוֹת] - the LORD of heavens ARMIES...
  - It has ALWAYS been – and will ALWAYS be – the CITY of our God!
- A modern question…
  - Most nations today do NOT recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel…
  - They believe that the city is also owned by the Palestinian people…
  - The name Palestine is derived from the Latin word for Philistines…
  - It was a name first given to Judea by the Romans – after the Jewish revolt of 132 A.D.
  - Up until the 1960s it was a term that was synonymous with Jews…
  - At the beginning of the War of Independence in 1948 – Arabs fled PALESTINE…
  - Israel won the war – but failed to capture the West Bank [Jordan] and Gaza [Egypt]
  - Any Arabs who stayed in Israel became citizens - and still are to this day…
  - Those Arabs who fled ended up in refugee camps – never assimilated by Egypt and Jordan!
  - When Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 – they inherited those camps…
  - They could not integrate the Arabs into Israel – they outnumbered the Jews [democracy]
  - Yasser Arafat began the lie of the Palestinian people – tell it loud enough - long enough…
  - The PALESTINIANS are just Jordanian Arabs who were orphaned by their country in 1948!
  - The world debates over whether Jerusalem belong to Israel…
  - But it turns out God promised the city would ALWAYS be HIS…
  - The struggle is not about the CITY – the CITY belongs to Jesus – the struggle is spiritual…
  - And there will not be any peace in Israel – until the Messiah comes!
  - **Psalm 122:6** – "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem…"

- **3rd – In the TEMPLE of God… vs. 9-14**

○ 1st – His LOVE… vs. 9

- We have thought - O God - on Your lovingkindness. In the midst of Your temple!
- In light of what Jerusalem is – the PLACE where the LORD dwells…

- The Psalmist THOUGHT [piel] about FOUR things – when He went to the HOUSE of God [temple]
- LOVING-KINDNESS [חֶסֶד] – the goodness or love that comes from God…
- As we THINK about the LOVE of God - in spite of the rebellion of Israel…
- It helps us to know that God will always LOVE us – even when we FAIL!

- 2nd – His RIGHTEOUSNESS… vs. 10
  - According to Your name - O God - so is Your praise to the ends of the earth.
  - Your right hand is full of righteousness!
  - According to Your name – God [אֱלֹהִים] is not His name…
  - The name of God is - the LORD [יְהוָה] – the becoming one – the great I AM…
  - The name of His RIGHT hand – full of RIGHTEOUSNESS [צַדִּיק] – is JESUS [יְשׁוּעָה]
  - As we THINK about RIGHTEOUS – we remember Jesus who died so we could have LIFE!
- 3rd – His WORD… vs. 11
  - Let Mount Zion rejoice. Let the daughters of Judah be glad - because of Your judgments!
  - Mount ZION is rejoicing [imperfect] - the daughter of Judah are happy [imperfect]
  - Because they know JUDGEMENT [מִשְׁפָּט] of the LORD!
  - As we THINK about His WORD [judgements] - we will also REJOICE and be HAPPY!
- 4th – The next generation… vs. 12-14
  - Walk about Zion - and go all around her. Count her towers. Mark well her bulwarks.
  - Consider her palaces - that you may tell it to the generation following.
  - For this is God - our God forever and ever. He will be our guide [forever]!
  - WALK [imperative] around ZION – and count [imperative] the TOWERS…
  - NOTICE [imperative] her walls – and go between [imperative] her palaces…
  - In other words do NOT just take someone else word – SEE for yourself…
  - Then we can go and tell the NEXT generation – our kids – who our God is!
  - As we think about our God – we remember He never EVER changes – **Hebrews 13:8**
  - He is the God who for millennia – has kept Jerusalem as His own…
  - Showing us that we can put our TRUST in Him – to GUIDE us forever more!

Psalm 49 – Trust the KING

- **1st – Giving WISDOM… vs. 1-5**
  - 1st – Introduction… vs. 1

- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah!
- CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – the WORSHIP leader…
- The SEVENTH of ELEVEN Psalms written by the sons of Korah!

- 2nd – Everyone LISTEN… vs. 1-2
  - Hear this - all peoples. Give ear - all inhabitants of the world.
  - Both low and high - rich and poor together!
  - LISTEN [imperative] ALL people – ALL who live in this AGE [time]
  - The son of ADAM [אָדָם] – perhaps meaning sinful – and the son of MAN [אִישׁ] – everyone else…
  - Together with the RICH – those how have EVERYTHING - and the NEEDY – who have NOTHING!
  - Bottom line – this is a message for EVERYONE – no EXCEPTIONS – pay ATTENTION!
- 3rd – Speaking WISDOM… vs. 3-4
  - My mouth shall speak wisdom - and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.
  - I will incline my ear to a proverb. I will disclose my dark saying on the harp!
  - If we LISTEN - the Psalmist will give [piel] us WISDOM…
  - What was in his HEART – will give us UNDERSTANDING…
  - Through his SONG [harp] – he gives us a PROVERB – answering a DIFFICULT question!
  - KNOWLEDGE is NOT the same thing as having WISDOM and UNDERSTANDING…
  - If someone gave us the combination to a safe full of money – but we did not open the safe…
  - Our KNOWLEDGE – would not give us the BLESSINGS we were offered!
  - KNOWING what Bible says - quoting Bible verses - is the easy part…
  - The question is do we have WISDOM – do we UNDERSTAND what the Bible says…
  - The blessings of God come when we get the answers to the difficult questions!
- 4th – No FEAR… vs. 5
  - Why should I fear in the days of evil - when the iniquity at my heels surrounds me!
  - What makes me AFRAID – the days when BAD things [evil] happen…
  - When I am surrounded by BAD people – the word HEEL [עָקֵב] is the root for the name Jacob!
  - It is NOT a question of if BAD things will happen – the question is will I be AFRAID…
  - It turns out the answer to this PROVERB – is WHO we look to WHEN the BAD things happen…
  - There are TWO choices – we look to MONEY – or we look to the LORD!

- **2ND – FAITH IN MONEY… vs. 6-14**
  - 1st – BOAST in RICHES… vs. 6
    - Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches!
    - Those who TRUST [בָּטַח] – to put our CONFIDENCE in…
    - WEALTH [חַיִל] – can mean MONEY – or the things MONEY can buy – POWER – PEOPLE…
    - RICHES – speaks specifically of having a LOT [multitude] of MONEY
    - Causing them to BOAST about themselves – they think they are the reason for their SUCCESS!
    - Everything we have we received from God – so it is not ours to BOAST about...
    - Our intellect - our ability - our family – all were given to us…
    - We have nothing that we have not been given – so all the credit goes to God!
    - **I Corinthians 4:7** – "What do you have that God has not given you? If all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?"
  - 2nd – RICHES cannot redeem… vs. 7-9
    - None of them can by any means redeem his brother - nor give to God a ransom for him.
    - For the redemption of their souls is costly - and it shall cease forever.
    - That he should continue to live eternally - and not see the Pit!
    - His MONEY can in NO way RANSOM [repeated twice in Hebrew for emphasis] his brother…
    - There is no amount of MONEY – he can give to God – to COVER [כֹּפֶר] the sin…
    - REDEMPTION is very EXPENSIVE – if you tried to pay it you would NEVER stop…
    - But they TRY – because they are looking for ETERNAL life – avoid ending up in the PIT [hell]!
    - How EXPENSIVE is REDEMPTION – it was paid for in the BLOOD of Jesus…
    - How sad to THINK that ANY amount of MONEY could ever save us…
    - The ONLY hope we have to escape the PIT – is through the sacrifice of our LORD!
    - **I Peter 1:18-19** – "Not redeemed with… silver or gold.. but with the precious blood of Christ."
  - 3rd – RICHES do not last… vs. 10-11
    - For he sees wise men die.
    - Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish and leave their wealth to others.
    - Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever.
    - Their dwelling places to all generations. They call their lands after their own names!
    - God sees EVERYONE die – the WISE – as well as the ARROGANT and the FOOL…

- The difference is the FOOL thinks they will live FOREVER!
- The PROOF is how they try and NAME things after them – immortality…
- People who put up PLAQUES – so their NAME will never be forgotten…
- They poor their wealth into philanthropic charities – and get buildings erected in their NAME…
- But they will DIE – and their MONEY will NOT go with them – **Job 1:21**
- What GOOD are their PLAQUES - when they STAND before a RIGHTEOUS God!

  - 4th – RICHES cannot SAVE… vs. 12-14
    - Nevertheless man - though in honor - does not remain. He is like the beasts that perish.
    - This is the way of those who are foolish - and of their posterity who approve their sayings. Selah
    - Like sheep they are laid in the grave. Death shall feed on them.
    - The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning.
    - And their beauty shall be consumed in the grave - far from their dwelling!
    - Sinful MEN [אָדָם] will not ABIDE – they die like wild animals…
    - Yet this is the WAY of the FOOLISH – and everyone who FOLLOWS what they say – SELAH!
    - They are LED like sheep to the GRAVE [שְׁאוֹל] – DEATH will feed on them…
    - The BEAUTY they lived for – will be consumed by DECAY [שְׁאוֹל]!
    - **Ecclesiastes 5:15** - "People who live only for wealth come to the end of their lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day they were born."

    - I saw a bumper sticker once – he who dies with the most toys wins!
    - That is pretty much the mantra of this age – people live to try and get more STUFF…
    - But what is never addressed is what happens when they come to the END of this life…
    - What happens to all the STUFF – it is all LOST – and sadly so are they!
    - Because they put their faith in somethings that does NOT last – CANNOT save them!
    - **Matthew 6:19** - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth - where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven - where moths and rust cannot destroy - and thieves do not break in and steal."

- **3rd – FAITH in God… vs. 15-20**
  - 1st – God can REDEEM… vs. 15
    - But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave - for He shall receive me. Selah!

- Money CANNOT redeem my SOUL from the GRAVE [שְׁאוֹל] – but God [אֱלֹהִים] CAN…
- He WILL [imperfect] snatch me out of the GRASP [hand] of DEATH – SELAH!
- We have no need to fear DEATH - it has not sting - no bite for us...
- We know that it is not the end - far from it - it is the beginning of eternal life…
- We know what will happen when we die – God will snatch us from the grasp of DEATH!
- **I Corinthians 15:55/57** – "O death - where is your victory? O death - where is your sting? …But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."

o 2nd – No FEAR… vs. 16-19

- Do not be afraid when one becomes rich - when the glory of his house is increased.
  - PLEASE [jussive] do NOT be afraid when someone becomes RICH!
  - As I thought about this – why would we FEAR those who become RICH…
  - I think the answer is because we MIGHT have missed something BETTER…
  - We are AFRAID – we made the WRONG choice in living for Jesus…
  - Which is why we are given the ASSURANCE – that is NOT true!
- For when he dies he shall carry nothing away. His glory shall not descend after him.
  - Though while he lives he blesses himself (men will praise you when you do well for yourself)
  - He shall go to the generation of his fathers. They shall never see light!
  - The rich will carry NOTHING with them in DEATH – no GLORY will go with them…
  - Even though they had a BLESSED [piel] life – and other PRAISED [hiphil] them…
  - They will DIE like their FATHERS – and NEVER see LIGHT again!
  - Which is why it is BETTER to live for Jesus – than to live for MONEY…
  - Why WASTE our lives on something that will not last..
  - When we can instead USE our lives to invest in something that will never go away!
  - There was a MISSIONARY who lived in Ecuador in the 1950s…
  - He was killed trying to reach out to a remote tribal group called the Huaorani…
  - He left behind his young daughter and wife – Elizabeth Eliot…
  - His wife found these words in his journal…
  - A man is not fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he will never loose!

o 3rd – No UNDERSTANDING… vs. 20

- A man who is in honor - yet does not understand - is like the beasts that perish!
- A SINFUL man [אָדָם] – who does not stop to CONSIDER what happens AFTER this life…
- Is like a DUMB beast – who will just perish without HOPE…
- Bottom line – do not LIVE for the moment – stop and think about eternity…
- Do NOT put our trust in unstable MONEY – instead in the MIGHTY King!