

**Program:** SS Panel 2024 1 Q

**Quarterly title:** The Book Of Psalms

**Quarterly author:** Dragoslava Santrac

**Lesson Title:** #11 Longing *for* God *in* Zion

**Section title:** Sunday - A Day in Your Courts Is Better Than a Thousand

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**Psalm 84:11** For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

## Longing for God *in* Zion

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### SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Psalm 84; Rev. 21:3; Psalm 122; Psalm 87; Gal. 3:28, 29; Matt. 28:18-20; Psalm 46; Psalm 125.*

**Memory Text:** "My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God" (*Psalm 84:2, NKJV*).

The songs of Zion are joyous hymns that magnify the beauty of Zion and the sovereignty of the Lord, who reigns from His holy mountain. These Psalms often praise the merits of the Lord's house and express a love for the sanctuary that can be found in other Psalms, as well. Many of these Psalms were composed by the sons of Korah, who had firsthand experience of the blessedness of the Lord's house as the temple musicians (*1 Chron. 6:31-38*) and keepers of the temple gates (*1 Chron. 9:19*).

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

What makes Zion the source of hope and joy? Zion represented God’s living presence among His people. As the people of Israel are God’s chosen people (Deut. 7:6), so Zion is God’s chosen mountain (Ps. 78:68, Ps. 87:2). God reigns from Zion (Ps. 99:1, 2) and founded His temple on Zion, as well (Ps. 87:1). Thus, Zion is a place of divine blessings and refuge. Zion is often referred to in parallel, or even interchangeably with, Jerusalem and the sanctuary, the center of God’s work of salvation for the ancient world.

The blessings of Zion overflow to the ends of the earth because the Lord’s person and grace exceed the boundaries of any holy place. Zion is the joy of all the earth (Ps. 48:2), affirming that the whole earth belongs to God.

*\*Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, March 16.*

**SUNDAY**

March 10

**A Day in Your Courts Is Better Than a Thousand**

Read Psalm 84:1–4. Why does the psalmist long to dwell in the sanctuary?

**To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.**

**Psalm 84:1–4** 1 How lovely (KJV amiable) is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!

How lovely (KJV amiable) is Your tabernacle

**Lovely = Amiable: = IH3039 (Strong) yedīyd yed-eed'**

From the same as [H1730](#); *loved*: - amiable, (well-) beloved, loves.

- > BDB Definition: 1) one beloved, beloved (noun masculine)
- 2) lovely (adjective)

**Amiable:** merrien-webster a: friendly, sociable, and congenial; an amiable host  
*amiable* neighbors

**Psalm 84:2** My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; **My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

**REF:** There is need of prayer,—most earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer,—such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed: “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.” “I have longed after Thy precepts;” “I have longed for Thy salvation.” “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.” “My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy judgments.” **This is the spirit of wrestling prayer, such as was possessed by the royal psalmist.** 4T 534.2

**Question: Why did the psalmist long and faint for the courts of the LORD?**

**Answer: Psalm 16:11** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Question:** Do you long to go to be in God’s presence? heaven?

If the eye is single, if it is directed heavenward, the light of heaven will fill the soul, and earthly things will appear insignificant and uninviting. The purpose of the heart will be changed, and the admonition of Jesus will be heeded.... Your thoughts will be fixed upon the great rewards of eternity. All your plans will be made in reference to the future, immortal life.... Bible religion will be woven into your daily life. AG 251.4

**Question:** Do you long to go to heaven?

**Psalm 84:3** Even the sparrow has found a home, 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 will still be praising You. Selah

**Read Psalm 84:5–12. Who else can be blessed by the sanctuary?**

**Psalm 84:5–12** **5** Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

> NKJV: pilgrimage  
 >KJV :way  
 Jewish Publication Society 1917: highway

**Pilgrimage = way H4546 (Brown-Driver-Briggs) mesillâh BDB**

**Definition: 1) highway, raised way, public road**

> Strongs: From [H5549](#); a *thoroughfare* (as *turnpiked*), literally or figuratively; specifically a *viaduct*, a *staircase*: - causeway, course, highway, path, terrace.

**Jeremiah 18:15** “Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, *From* the ancient paths, To walk in pathways and not on a highway,

>> Jeremiah lamented that Israel had left gods highway to follow other pathways.

**Psalm 84:6** As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

**\*\*\*READ\*\*\***

The psalmist “longs” and “faints” to make the sanctuary his permanent abode so that he can be near God forever (*Ps. 84:1, 2*). God’s living presence (*Ps. 84:2*) makes the sanctuary a unique place. In the sanctuary, worshipers can “behold the beauty of the LORD” (*Ps. 27:4, NKJV; also see Ps. 63:2*) and be “satisfied with the goodness of Your house” (*Ps. 65:4, NKJV*). In Psalm 84, unparalleled happiness is achieved in relationship with God, which consists of praising Him (*Ps. 84:4*), finding strength in Him (*Ps. 84:5*), and trusting Him (*Ps. 84:12*). The sanctuary is the place where such a relationship is nourished through worship and fellowship with fellow believers. The living presence of God in the sanctuary gives the worshipers a glimpse of God’s glorious kingdom and a taste of eternal life.

**Psalm 84:8** O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

**\*\*\*READ\*\*\***

Communion with God imparts to the soul an intimate knowledge of his will. But many who profess the faith know not what true conversion is. They have no experience in communion with the Father through Jesus Christ, and have never felt the power of divine grace to sanctify the heart. Praying and sinning, sinning

and praying, their lives are full of malice, deceit, envy, jealousy, and self-love. The prayers of this class are an abomination to God. True prayer engages the energies of the soul, and affects the life. He who thus pours out his wants before God feels the emptiness of everything else under heaven GW92 36.1

**Psalm 84:9** O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed.  
**10** For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.**

>> Story: The birthday wish

**Psalm 84:11** For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

**Philippians 4:19** 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Even when physically removed from the sanctuary, God's children continue to bear a stamp of God's sanctuary by living a worthy life (*Ps. 84:11*), which characterizes the righteous who enter the Lord's sanctuary (*Ps. 15:1, 2*). The Lord is called "a sun," showing that the blessings from the sanctuary, like the sunrays, extend to the ends of the earth (*Ps. 84:11*). Thus, those who abide with God through faith receive His grace, regardless of the place where they are.

**Psalm 84: 12** O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

God's blessings are described as radiating from the sanctuary, bestowed first on those who serve in the sanctuary (*Ps. 84:4*), then on the pilgrims on their way to the sanctuary (*Ps. 84:5–10*), and finally reaching as far as the ends of the earth. The expectation of meeting God in the sanctuary strengthens the faith of the pilgrims (*Ps. 84:7*). Whereas the strength of the ordinary traveler weakens under the burden of the tiresome journey, with the pilgrims to the sanctuary their strength increases the nearer they come to the sanctuary.

**Read Revelation 21:3. What hope reflected in the earthly sanctuary is revealed here to us? How do we now even begin to imagine what this experience will be like?**

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.