

Part 2 – Blessed are They

In part 1 we learned that this Psalm begins the *second* part of the “Leviticus book” of the Psalms (chapters Ps 84-89), which is the ‘*Sanctuary in Relation to Yehovah*’ (instead of ‘to man’). And the subject/title of *this* chapter is “*The Blessedness of Its Worshipers*”. And, while we’re not directly told *when* this Psalm was written, we are told it was a Psalm ‘for the sons of Korah’. So, it was quite possibly a descendant of Korah who wrote it. And, from the context of the Psalm, it’s likely that it was written by someone who had been loyal to David at the time his son, Absalom, led an insurrection against him. When this happened, David – and those faithful to him – fled to the east side of the Jordan River. And they remained there until Absalom’s army was defeated in battle. And *then* they went *back* to Jerusalem. But, just as it was a long trip to the east side of the River Jordan, so too did it take a while to go *back* home to Jerusalem. And it was during the journey home (to Jerusalem, where the Tabernacle of God was at that time) that this Psalm was likely written. Knowing this helps us to understand the longing that the Psalmist had to be close to the Lord again; for back in those days, they were *supposed* to worship at the Tabernacle (where God’s Ark of the Covenant was). And that’s why we saw, in the first three verses, the Psalmist express deep longing to be near to the Lord’s Tabernacles again. But today, we aren’t to offer blood sacrifices because Jesus Christ has already *fulfilled all* blood sacrifices once and *for all times* (Heb 10:10, Col 2:14, Eph 2:15). Therefore, we needn’t have this longing today, for we can be *spiritually* close to God *wherever we are*. As Jesus taught us, we are to worship God ‘*in spirit and in truth*’ (John 4:23-24). So, as long as we study God’s Word (and think upon it; keep it in our heart and mind) then we can be *spiritually* near to Him. Yet, we’ve also got to sincerely strive to *obey* Him, or else we’re not really serious about worshiping Him! So, only when we study His Words (to learn of Him) *and* strive to obey Him (from the heart) can we truly be close to God. And we’ll learn much more about this in the rest of this great Psalm...

Psalm 84

4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

Now, the first thing we need to understand is that: not everyone was able to literally ‘dwell’ **in** God’s ‘house’ (the Tabernacle). And that’s because, that was something *only* the Levites *who descended from Aaron* were allowed (yea commissioned) to do. But the rest of the tribe of Levi *were* to support them in their ministering to the Lord, in various ways, such as this ‘son of Korah’ who sang (or played an instrument) to worship the Lord (Ex 28, Num 3, Deut 10:8-9). So, when the Psalmist speaks of dwelling *in* God’s house, he’s not *literally* speaking of living *in* the Tabernacle, nor even ministering *in it* – again, because that’s only something the descendants of Aaron’s lineage did. But, *all* of Israel was able to go *to* the Tabernacle and worship the Lord; and, in fact, that’s what they were *supposed* to do. And while *part* of that worship, in the days this Psalm was written, was to go to the Tabernacle and make sacrifices (as the book of Leviticus outlines rather well), Moses summed up what worshiping God *really* meant...

*1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, **which the LORD your God commanded to teach you**, that ye might **do them** in the land whither ye go to possess it:*

*2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, **to keep all his statutes and his commandments**, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, **all the days of thy life**; and that thy days may be prolonged.*

*3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and **observe to do it**; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.*

*4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is **one** LORD:*

*5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might**.*

*6 And **these words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart**:*

*7 And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt **talk of them** when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

*8 And thou shalt **bind them for a sign upon thine hand**, and they shall **be as frontlets between thine eyes**.*

*9 And thou shalt **write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates**.*

Deut 6:1-9

So, worshiping God wasn't something they only did when going to the Tabernacle and giving Him Sacrifices. It was something they were to do every day by learning His Laws (Word), striving to obey then and teaching them to others, particularly their children. Likewise, worshiping God today is not about going to Church [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332>] one day a week. While that's not bad to do (if you actually have a Church that teaches the Word of God), we must *also* live according to God's Word (from the heart) *the rest of the week too*. Not only by studying the Bible (on our own) but also striving to *obey it and share it* with others, especially our children. But, before Jesus Christ came, the people were given the blood sacrifices (ritualistic ordinances) because they taught people how to be pleasing to God. But, further to this, as Paul explained, the ordinances (blood sacrifices) were also a 'shadow' of the *true* Sacrifice (Jesus Christ) that was to come (Col 2:16-17, Heb 8:4-5, Heb 10:1). So, they served as a 'schoolmaster' *to bring people to the Messiah* (Jesus Christ) so that they could be **justified** by their faith in God *and the promised Messiah* that the blood sacrifices looked forward to (Gal 3:24). So, people were justified by their faith the Messiah **would** come (which the blood sacrifices looked forward to) *just as we are* justified by our faith that He **has** come already. And as noted before, the blood sacrifices taught them how to be pleasing to God *because* the blood sacrifices are a very vivid 'image' of what we need to do to our carnal mind **if** we're going to be pleasing to God. Just as the animal had to be slain (ex: Lev 1:11), so too do we have to spiritually 'kill' the 'animal' within us – which is our heart, i.e. the carnal mind, the part of us that wants to

sin. As Jesus said: *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me* (Luke 9:23). There's only one reason to 'take up' your cross; and that's to go to your death. But you cannot die 'daily' in a *physical* way. So, Jesus was clearly telling us that we must learn to crucify our *carnal mind* (our heart, the part of us that *wants* to sin, which Paul calls the 'old man') each day so we *can* sincerely obey God. As Paul wrote in Rom 6:7: *our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*. And after the animal was killed, it then the animal had to have its insides cleaned with water (ex: Lev 1:9,11). This too is symbolic for the Living Water (God's Word and Holy Spirit) cleansing our 'inner man' (heart and mind) so we can **learn** to do what's right, **want** to do what's right and then sincerely strive **to do** what's right (John 7:38-39; Acts 1:5; Eph 5:26; Heb 10:22). After that, the animal was to be burnt on the fire (ex: Lev 1:11), which is also symbolic of being cleansed by God's *spiritual* fire, which is His energy (strength and understanding) that comes from His Word and Holy Spirit (Mth 3:11, Heb 12:29, Acts 2:3-4).

So, the purpose of God giving Israel His Laws was so they could learn *how* to love and obey the Lord (YHVH) with *all* their heart, soul and mind. But, someone had to *teach* them (Heb 10:14-15; Isa 52:7), which was the job of the priesthood (Lev 10:8-11) *and* the sacrifices they performed on behalf of the people. And parents were also commissioned to teach their children God's Laws, from what they learned from the priests (Deut 4:9). And when Jesus Christ came, He reiterated this command to love God with *all* our heart, mind, soul and strength in Mk 12:30 and Mth 22:37. So, He certainly didn't do away with God's Laws! What Jesus did do, however, was to *fulfill* the blood sacrifices once and for all (Heb 10:10, Col 2:14, Eph 2:15) and that's why He said we're now to worship God *wherever we are* so long as it's '*in spirit and in truth*' (John 4:23-24). And what that means is *exactly* what Moses said in Deut 6 above. However, the Lord (YHVH) also reiterated this through the prophet Jeremiah...

*31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

*32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant **they** brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

*33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jer 31:31-34

So, being able to ‘dwell’ in God’s Tabernacle truly has *always been* about learning about Him and then striving hard (from the heart) to **obey** Him. That’s why the ‘new’ commandment would be made (through Jesus Christ) with those who write His Laws *in their* ‘inward parts’ of their heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts). Only when we **know** God’s Word (in our mind) can we **know how** to obey Him. Yet, that’s not enough; we must also **want** to obey Him, which is why we must also write His Laws into our carnal mind (the part of us that wants to sin, Rom 8:5-8). Therefore, it takes disciplining our ‘inner man’ each and every day to control our thoughts (mind), desires and emotions (heart) so that we don’t allow our carnal mind/body *to control us* and cause us to sin (James 1:13-15). When we have bad thoughts, desires and emotions *we must discipline our heart and mind not to entertain them but kick them out* and *faithfully obey God*. While none of us are perfect (Rom 3:23), the Holy Spirit *will* help us to get better at understanding **how** to obey Him *and wanting* to obey Him, so that we are better **able** to control our ‘inner man’ (and so our actions follow suit) each day we continue to strive to ‘walk in the spirit’ with His Word and Holy Spirit guiding us (Gal 5, Rom 8).

And this truly is *exactly* what this Psalmist is speaking about; because he did not literally ‘dwell’ (which does mean *to dwell* #3427) in God’s physical Temple. He ‘dwelt’ with God *spiritually*, as we are to do also. Jesus spoke of this, in John 15:7, when He said that we should ‘abide’ *in Him* (which also means *to dwell*, #3306 in the Greek) by having His Word within us. 1 John 2:5-6 also tells us that keeping God’s Word (by walking as He did, i.e obeying God) is how we ‘abide in Him’. And Romans 8:9 says this also, by explaining that we are not ‘in the flesh’ but ‘in the Spirit’ *when the Holy Spirit dwells in us*. Simply put, when we sincerely study God’s Word every day (to learn what God wants *and* how to obey Him) – and then strive sincerely *to obey* Him – then His Word, being in our heart and mind (so we *can obey* Him), **is** how we ‘dwell’ in Him. And when we do that, His Holy Spirit will dwell in us and *that’s* how He abides (dwells) within us. Acts 5:32 specifically says that the Holy Spirit is given to those *who obey Him*. But we can’t obey Him if we don’t know *what* He wants and that’s why we must study His Word! Further, even if we know what God wants, we won’t obey Him if we don’t want to! That’s why we must clean our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) as well as our mind (thoughts). And studying God’s Word *for yourself*, with sincerity and understanding, is how you clean both your heart and mind (spirit). That’s why Jesus said we have to worship God ‘in spirit and in truth’ (Joun 4:23-24). It takes putting truth (God’s Word) in your spirit (heart and mind) in order to truly worship God. You can learn more about this in the special studies below...

The Vine – Part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992>

The Vine – Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/993>

Dwelling In Jesus Christ and His Dwelling In Us - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1265>

The True Vine and Pruning - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1271>

Abiding in the Vine - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1273>

How to Get the Holy Spirit of God <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1220>

Hearing God <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39>

Now then, verse 4 (here in Ps 84) says that those who dwell in God's 'house' are 'blessed'. The word 'blessed' here means *happiness* or, as an interjection, *how happy!* (#835). The very first Psalm used this same word when it stated that...

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

*2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Ps 1:1-3

Having God's Word in our mind (thoughts, intellect – so we know *how* to obey it) and heart (desires, emotions – so that we *want* to obey it) is what will make us productive servants for God and Jesus Christ. That's why Jesus said that we must 'abide in Him' (remain focused on His Word and strive to obey it) and He must 'abide in us' (we must keep His Words in our heart and mind and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us) IF we're going to be fruitful – for without Him, we can do nothing *good* (John 15:4-5). He also told us that the way we are spiritually cleaned is *through His Word* (John 15:3), which *is* the Word of God (John 6:63, 7:16). And this truly is the only way we'll be blessed and happy. Many other of the Psalms use this same Hebrew word rendered as 'blessed' (Ps 2:12, Ps 32:2, Ps 33:12, Ps 40:4, Ps 41:1). And Ps 34:8 also says that only those who trust in the Lord (YHWH) are blessed (happy). And Ps 65:5 uses this word too, in a very similar way as this Psalm 84:4: *Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.* But, perhaps Psalm 16:11 explains what this verse is really saying, even without using the word 'blessed', for it says: ***Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*** Indeed, when God shows (teaches) us how to 'live right' (obey Him) then we are blessed, and happy, indeed. For when the truth (God's Word and Holy Spirit) dwells within us, that truly is the fulfillment of happiness and joy. For the truth gives you inner peace (in your heart and mind) that is far better than anything this world has to offer (Phil 4:7). As the Lord (YHWH) said in Isa 48:22 and 57:21, *there is no peace to the wicked.* But Jesus told us: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: **not as the world giveth**, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14:27). What is that peace? It is His Holy Spirit (John 6:63), which He called the 'Comforter' (John 14:16, 26, 16:7) and the 'Spirit of truth' (John 15:26).

Moreover, after saying that: *Blessed are they that dwell in thy house*, this Ps 84:4 then says *they will be still praising thee*. This translation is a bit confusing. The *Moffett Bible* renders this verse as: "*praising thee all the day long*". So, those who 'dwell' in God's house (spiritually dwell with

Him, by having His Words and Holy Spirit *in their heart and mind*) will praise the Lord (YHVH) all the day long. That doesn't mean we have to go around singing all the time, nor trying to plant seeds of truth to those who don't want to hear it. It simply means that we'll be so happy that our heart will be 'singing' and 'praising' the Lord all the time. The word 'praising' can also mean to *celebrate* (#1984) and when we have peace in our soul and spirit then that truly does praise our Heavenly Father, because *people notice it*. When you don't get angry quickly, act prideful or selfish, nor greedily or lustful – in other words, when you don't act like the heathen do – then people notice how different you are. And those whose heart is not hardened to the truth, might even come asking questions at some point in time. That's why Peter wrote *sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear* (1 Peter 3:15).

And lastly, this verse also ends with a 'selah', which always means to '*stop and think*' about what *has been said* (vs 4) with what's *about to be said* (vs 5). This 'selah' is thus connecting the dwellers in (and the approaches to) the House of Yehovah, with the common blessedness of all true worshipers. What is that 'common blessedness'? The next verse tells us...

Psalms 84

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

The 'common blessedness' that all *true* worshipers of the Lord (YHVH) share, is that they are happy (blessed) *because* their inner man (heart and mind) is strengthened by being *spiritually* close to the *true* God Almighty (YHVH). And that's because God's 'ways' are the *only* path to eternal life (John 17:17) as well as peace of mind (Ps 16:11, Phil 4:7); and they are explained through His Laws (Ps 119:1, Deut 30:19), which Jesus also taught us (John 14:6). As Ps 77:11-13 said, remembering the words of the Lord (YHVH), meditating on them and also speaking of them *is being* 'in the Sanctuary' (*spiritually* close to God) - for He reveals His 'ways' (path to life) to us 'from the Sanctuary' which is where He dwells. And when His Holy Spirit *dwells within us* (1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18) *then* we can be 'in the Sanctuary' with Him, *spiritually* speaking. We also learned about this back in Psalms 73, which taught us of the destruction of being *far from God* (outside the Sanctuary) versus the safety of being *close to God* (inside the Sanctuary). And the fact is that: we can only be close to our Heavenly Father (*in the Sanctuary*) when we are *spiritually* close to Him. And the only way we can be *spiritually* close to God is to have His Words (through studying the Bible) and Holy Spirit (which is given to us when we believe in, *and obey*, His Word) in our heart and mind. And *that's* what keeps us happy, safe, and strong, *no matter* how hard times get....

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

*4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: **for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:***

Isa 26:3-4

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.