

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 44 as we continue our study through the Word of God. First of all we are told that this Psalm was written by the sons of Korah. Korah was the great-grandson of Levi, the grandson of Kohath and cousin of Moses and Aaron. He was a member of one of the three main family groups of the Levites. And the sons of Korah were worshipers and thus, they put together this as well as several other Psalms, a total of ten of them.

Now in this Psalm we see the Psalmist looking at past deliverances by God to encourage him as he is going through a time of difficulty. We are not sure when this Psalm was written, what was going on, but many feel it was during the days of Hezekiah as the Assyrians were making their way southward and headed for Jerusalem. So keep that in mind as we are going through this Psalm. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 44, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 44**VERSES 1-3**

1. As a Jewish child you were told over and over again what God had done, how He sustained His people. And now that the Psalmist is older, he remembers these things he was taught. Do you see how important it is to teach our children the things of God and for them to see what God is doing in our life!

2. Now here's the thing. God not only brought the children of Israel into the land, but He also fought for them. He drove out the enemies, protected His people. And I tend to see this as being even more than when they entered the land of Canaan because the enemy was always trying to destroy them and God kept delivering them. And I think it is important to not only remember what God has done but to tell others that they may also take courage in the Lord when they find themselves under attack. It not only should strengthen our faith but it should strengthen the faith of our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

VERSES 4-8

1. Now let me say this. It is not good to live in the past, but it is encouraging to reminisce about what God has done so that we can be encouraged in the present situations we find ourselves in. And what I want you to notice here is that these threats of the enemy did not cause them to curse God or get mad at God. What they continued to do was to praise God, boast about the One they loved! How could they do that? Because they remembered what God has done in the past and that same God was working in the present, He was with them and they were trusting in Him to deliver them from this present situation. I like that and I pray that God would give me the strength to do that, to trust in Him no matter what is happening in my life, no matter how big the enemy may seem. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world! (I John 4:4).

VERSES 9-16

1. Now keep in mind that the Assyrians were a formidable enemy. And yet, the faith of the people of God seemed good until we read in verse 9 **“But”** and then the Psalmist begins to lose perspective. He seems to think that God is against Him. What happened? We see the Psalmist forget about what God has done in the past, and he becomes overwhelmed with what is happening to him here and now. He has lost all hope at this point.

2. Now before we are too harsh on the Psalmist here, don't we do that? Of course we do! I think our faith is strong, we can trust in Him as long as the enemy is not too strong, the enemy is not too big, but when our worst fears come upon us, our faith begins to fade! That is where the Psalmist is at and I am glad that he is honest because these are feelings, emotions, that we go through and let's see what happens as he continues on.

VERSES 17-22

1. Now when you read this it seems that the Psalmist is saying, “Wait a minute Lord. This is not our fault, we are doing what you want and yet this is still happening. So this must be your fault!” First of all they may have been doing what is right and even in that it does not mean that everything is going to be okay. If there was sin in their lives then you can understand why God was chastening them to awaken them from their spiritual sleep. But I don't think that is necessarily the case here. And so the Psalmist, like us, is looking for reasons why this is happening and the conclusion is that this has to be God's fault!

You may not like this answer to this problem, but here it is. This is where faith comes in. We may not understand why this is happening but all we can do is hope in God, that He will see us through the darkest of days because He loves us so much!

2. Now what I find interesting is that Paul quotes verse 22 and applies it to the church, of all groups of people. (Romans 8:36). And what Paul is saying is that because we are God's people, we will be like sheep lead to the slaughter, we will be persecuted, beaten and-so-on. It is not that we deserve it, but it is because evil wants to stomp out the light. They want to destroy it, destroy our faith. And it is easy to take our eyes off the Lord and focus upon the situation.

But I want you to notice what Paul goes on to say in Romans chapter 8, **“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Romans 8:37-39.

Don't lose sight of this fact; nothing can separate us from the love of God. Read the Foxes book of Martyrs and read the countless men and women that went to their death for their faith in Christ, not with bitterness, but singing praises unto God. And by that witness that they left behind, many were saved through it. Many of the Roman's that put them to death came to know the Lord by their witness.

Interestingly enough the Greek word for “witness”, is MARTUREO, which meant “to testify.” But because so many went to their deaths because of their faith in Christ, it came to mean a person who was tortured or put to death for their beliefs. You see, God never said it would be easy, that we would never suffer for Him. Only that He would be with us and strengthen us to endure what will be placed before us. We must keep our eyes focused upon Him, on the finish line. Don’t lose sight!

Now when Paul says that we are “**more than conquerors through Him who loved us**” in Romans 8:37, what is he talking about? Again, you may not like this but it means “No matter what comes my way, not matter how difficult things may get, Lord you are with me and I am resting in You! I may never understand it but I know that you love me more than I will ever know; the cross of Calvary proved that to me! And that love you have for me can never be removed and thus, I will trust you and follow you all the days of my life.” I told you, not easy but that is the way we need to look at life, through what the Bible is saying to us and not based upon what we see or feel!

VERSES 23-26

1. The Psalmist is still upset here, asking God to awake and hear his cry. I bet you did not think that this Psalm would end that way did you? At this point the Assyrians were still there threatening them. And so this trial, this testing of the faith continues on and yes, they were eventually defeated, but not yet and the Psalmist is still upset, he is still crying out to God to wake up and do something about this!

2. What kind of a lesson is this for us? Here's the thing, this is not our home, we are just passing through. You see, our citizenship is in Heaven! Thus, we must be patient and wait upon Him. He loves us and is with us. Don't let life's circumstances rob you of the joy that God has for you and become confused of his love for you. God will bring us through even the toughest of times! Sometimes this is just the way it is, and the Psalmist ends this prayer continuing to cry out to God. God hears our cries and in His time and according to His plan He will intervene, we just need to learn to trust in Him. He makes all things beautiful in His time and not necessarily our time! And here's the thing, it is not that we shouldn't cry out to Him, we should but we should also not lose the perspective of God's love for us as we are going through these times!

PSALM 45

In this Psalm we see a beautiful love song about a mighty king and his passionate love for a queen. Now we are not sure if this was Solomon or Hezekiah or some other king but that is not really important. You see, this Psalm is a Messianic Psalm that portrays the beautiful mystery of Christ and His Bride, the Church. In fact, the ancient rabbis believed that this Psalm was written about the Messiah and if that is true, they have hung themselves, for Jesus, in fulfilling these things, proves that He is God! And so as we go through this Psalm keep in mind that it is about the King of kings and Lord of lords and His Bride, the Church!

VERSE 1

1. The Psalmist is ready to spill out what is in his heart, those things that God has shown him. And his focus is the Messiah. And the way this verse is written, the Psalmist is saying that his heart is bubbling over, it is bursting forth with these words he has to say. So let's read on and see what he was so passionate about!

VERSES 2-5

1. This could be speaking of the Lord's return, His Second Coming as we are told in Revelation 19:15, 21; regarding the final battle, and we are told, **“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. . . . And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”**

The King is coming, make no mistake about it. Right now we see Him as the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world. But He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. Don't turn down the grace that He is extending to you because if you do you will face His judgment!

2. Now in verse 4 when we read “**awesome things**” or some of you Bibles might have “**terrible things**” and the idea is awe-inspiring things! Why does His right hand do this or what is so important about His right hand? First of all the right hand was a symbol of power but also, keep in mind that His right hand was pierced and I think both apply here. God is teaching us some important lessons here. The first is how far man will go to destroy God, to remove God out of their lives and even as we see in the book of Revelation, that man will try to fight against God to wipe Him out and how foolish that is.

But there is more. Yes we can see how far man will go to destroy God. But on the opposite end of the spectrum, as you look at that nail pierced hand, do you see how far God will go to save sinful man! That is awe-inspiring to me and I hope it is to you!

VERSES 6-8

1. When we look at the longevity of governments, they don't last very long! Look at our nation, the constitution was written in 1776, so around 236 years and we are seeing the decline of our nation. And nations do come and go, governments come and go but when the Lord comes back to establish His Kingdom, it is forever and ever! I am so thankful for that because He will reign in righteousness and I long for that day when sin will be destroyed and righteousness will fill this land! It is coming because our King is coming!

2. Now this is an interesting verse, verse 6, and a troubling one for the Jehovah Witnesses and for all those cults who try to deny the deity of Jesus Christ! God the Father is speaking here. How do I know that? The best commentary I know tells me. In Hebrews 1:8-9 we read, **“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’”** Do you understand what the Father is saying? He is calling Jesus God! You see, Paul wrote here in Hebrews that Jesus is God, quoting out of Psalm 45:6! You can try to deny that if you want but you have to negate what the Scriptures are clearly teaching, Jesus is God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, equal with the Father!

VERSES 9-12

1. Here we see the King preparing Himself to meet his Bride, the Church. Now some would say, “The Church is not spoken of in the Old Testament; it was a mystery Paul tells us. The Church was a mystery that was revealed to him that the Gentiles would be saved and united together with the Jews in Christ!” I agree with that, the Church was a mystery but it doesn’t mean we don’t see the picture in the Old Testament. And I think that is exactly what we are seeing here.

2. Notice what the Father is telling us here in verse 10 about leaving things behind. We see this illustrated for us in the New Testament when Jesus said, **“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”** Luke 14:26. Jesus is not saying we are to hate our family and just walk away from them. What He is saying is that He has to be more important to us than family. They cannot get in the way of our loving and serving the Lord and sometimes that is the case. We need to be sold out to Him!

And think about it, when you enter into an earthly marriage there are certain things you must leave behind as you are joined to your spouse. The Father is telling us that we must leave the things of this world behind so that we can be joined to Him. God wants an intimate relationship with us. May we not make this complicated but just enjoy that relationship with the Father, the one that Christ has enabled us to have!

VERSES 13-15

1. We now see His Bride, the Church coming together to meet the Lord and I believe it is a picture of the marriage supper of the Lamb that we read about in Revelation chapter 19.

We are told, **“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”” And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”** Revelation 19:6-9.

It is as one writer put it:

Who can tell of that joy, the joy of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and of the holy angels, not to mention their own joy as they enter into the joy of their Lord! Comely in all comeliness, beautiful in all beauty, graceful in all grace, charming in every charm, attractive in every attractiveness, conformed to the image of God’s Son.”

- Source Unknown

What a time that will be when we come together for this feast with our Lord! But don't wait until then to enjoy that everlasting, that abundant life that God has given to you! We should have the joy of the Lord, we should be filled with gladness, we should shine for Him because we were once dead and now we are alive in Christ. We were lost but now we are found in Christ. There is nothing else to add to that!

VERSES 16-17

1. I believe the picture here is of the Millennial Kingdom and then on into eternity. And possibly what the Psalmist is saying is that all the fathers of Israel that came before the Messiah will be His sons, princes in the Kingdom Age. But of those who came to Christ during the Church Age, the Age of Grace, we are told in Revelation 1:5-6, “**and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**” We are kings and priests in the Kingdom Age. What a beautiful picture of our Bridegroom Jesus and God the Father, their great love for us! May we never forget that!

PSALM 46

We saw in Psalm 45 a beautiful picture the Bridegroom and the Bride, Jesus and the Church on into the Millennial Kingdom. The next three Psalms continue that theme and some have called Psalms 46, 47, and 48 a trilogy of end-times theology. The focus of these Psalms is the Tribulation Period through the setting up of the Kingdom, the establishment of the Millennial Reign of Christ. And here, in Psalm 46, we see God's awesome power in preserving His people.

Some also feel that there was a near fulfillment of this Psalm and that is seen as Judah was delivered from a foreign foe and they had many! But in these Psalms the focus is the Assyrians and their king, Sennacherib who had his Rabshakeh or general come and call for Judah's complete and immediate surrender to them. It seemed hopeless, they were outnumbered, outgunned, and there was nothing they could do. Well, not exactly!

They gave it to the Lord and the prophet Isaiah declared that not a single arrow would be fired from the enemy and that is exactly what happened. God defeated the enemy, an angel of the Lord wiped out 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night and the battle was over. And these Psalms could be celebrating that victory and in the long term, they are looking out into the end times, as we will see. (II King 18 & 19).

VERSES 1-3

1. The first thought in this Psalm that we see here in these verses is that we have nothing to fear because God is with us. That is the confidence we need to have, confidence in Him and it is a challenge to us to trust in Him. You see, these words are applicable to each of us today. The Psalmist is saying that he will not fear, no matter how intense the calamity may be, for God is his strength, his place of protection and rest. We may experience times when it seems like the whole world is crashing in, but God is still with us. We may feel that we are in a “tight spot” but He is still with us.

2. Now as we look ahead to the Tribulation Period we will see great cataclysmic events that come upon the earth. We will see wars, death, famine, great earthquakes, every mountain and island moved out of its place, stars of heaven falling out of the sky, and-so-on. And God will preserve His people, the Jews, during these days of turmoil. And the Psalmist is encouraging them to keep focused on the Lord, no matter how hopeless things may look. And again, that is a great lesson for us today!

3. One more point here and that is that this was one of Martin Luther’s favorite Psalms. And many believe that it was out of this Psalm he wrote, “A mighty fortress is our God.” He is our mighty fortress!

VERSES 4-7

1. We saw the first point being that we should not fear because God is with us. Now, in these verses we see the Lord enthroned in Jerusalem and we have the confidence that this will take place because the Lord has shown us in His Word!

2. Now this is interesting to me because it speaks of river in the city of God and yet, Jerusalem has no river in the city. It is very unique in that way because most cities were built with a river running through it. So what is this speaking of? I think there are two points, one that speaks of a near fulfillment and a future fulfillment.

Keep in mind that the Assyrians are around the city of Jerusalem now but before the Assyrians arrived, King Hezekiah did an amazing thing. Outside the city walls, in the Kidron Valley, there was a spring called the Gihon spring. Knowing the Assyrians were coming, Hezekiah ordered his men to dig a tunnel. Half began at the Gihon springs and dug westward. Others began at the pool of Siloam and dug eastward. Together, they dug a total of one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven feet. And when they were done, water flowed from the Gihon springs into the pool of Siloam within the wall of the city. Then Hezekiah covered the springs outside so the Assyrians wouldn't know there was a spring there at all. I think that is the near fulfillment of what the Psalmist wrote about.

3. I think the long term or future fulfillment comes about after the Tribulation Period. You can read of this river that flows from the Temple in Ezekiel chapter 47. And lastly, after the 1,000 year reign of Christ, when a new heavens and earth are created we see another river. Of this time we read in Revelation 22:1-5, **“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”**

4. Now verse 6 speaks of war, as the nations of the world make war. This could be speaking of both the end of the Tribulation Period and then end of the Kingdom Age. For in those two times the nations will rise up against the Lord and He will put them down! And yes, during His reign on the earth there will be peace but at the end, Satan will be loosed and many will follow him. But the Lord will quickly put that rebellion down! For us and for them, the confidence that God gives to His people is that He is with them! He is always with us, don't forget that!

VERSES 8-11

1. We have seen that we have nothing to fear because God is with us. We have seen that the Lord will be enthroned in Jerusalem, we are confident of that. And now, in these verses we see peace on the earth and really worldwide dominion of the Lord, He is coming back!

2. Now here's the thing. When the prince of peace, Jesus Christ, returns to set up His Kingdom, all the implements of war will be destroyed and turned into instruments of peace. In Isaiah 2:2-4 we read of this time, "**Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.'** For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore."

What is strange to me is that the United Nations have verse 4 of Isaiah chapter 2, hanging on their walls. But they will not be the instrument to bring about true peace, only Jesus Christ will be able to do this! In fact they bring about conflict with the things they do and not peace!

3. As the Psalmist concludes he tells us to **“Be still, and know that I am God.”** You know, we can make so much noise; we can be trying to do so many different things that we lose sight of God. It is when we rest in Him; learn about Him that He will reveal Himself to us.

And as much turmoil as there is in this world, there is coming a day of peace as the Prince of Peace rules and reigns from Jerusalem. Of this day, we are told in Isaiah 11:9, **“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”** Because we have been told what will take place, we are not to become fearful, but rest in the Lord - He has everything in control. And one day the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of God, and peace will permeate this land! Thus, we are told, **“Be still, and know that I am God.”**

PSALM 47

As I have said, many feel that this Psalm was born out of King Hezekiah’s dealings with the King of Assyria, Sennacherib. Sennacherib tried to defeat the Southern Kingdom of Judah by intimidation, sending in a large army and his representatives to speak with Judah’s leaders. And the Rabshakeh was the spokesperson for Sennacherib, and he tried to get the Jews to surrender. And when Hezekiah saw what was happening, that he was outnumbered, he brought it before the Lord and God answered his prayer. During a one night assault, one angel of God wiped-out 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, giving Israel the victory. (II Kings 18, 19).

And yes, I also believe this is looking ahead to the end of the Tribulation Period and the setting up of God's kingdom here on earth. And thus, when that happens, when God gave Judah the victory over the Assyrians, which already took place, and when Jesus Christ begins His reign on this earth, what do you think the people will do? Let's read on and see!

VERSES 1-4

1. There is shouting for joy, why? Because the Lord has come and He will reign in righteousness! I can't imagine the noise that will be made for God has triumphed over His enemies and has put down their rebellion! He is awesome and even now, we should be shouting for joy for the King has come into our hearts, into our lives!

2. Now I know, right now it may seem like the enemy has the upper hand, but they don't. "How can you say that Joe? Look at all that is happening around us! Look at all the evil in this world!" First of all God is in control and He will allow man to do as he pleases and in what they are doing will ultimately fulfill the plan and purposes of God!

And please remember that there is coming a day when the wicked will be destroyed. Our Lord will return and put an end to this rebellion, He will set-up His Kingdom, and we will reign with Him. Revelation 2:26-27 speaks of this. It says, "**And 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; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father.**" There should be a great shout for joy, as one day righteousness will fill this land!

VERSES 5-7

1. We should sing praises unto God, and they should be done with understanding. That means it should be based in truth, it must be based according to the Word of God. To worship with understanding we are speaking of our mind focused upon Him according to His Word. And folk's, as we come to worship the Lord it is not a funeral service, ***HE HAS RISEN!*** We need to be joyful, we need to sing out to Him, there should be great joy and excitement as we gather together to worship Him and wait upon Him to teach us and reveal Himself to us through His Word!

2. As we finish up this Psalm, just picture in your mind this day – it is coming!

VERSES 8-9

1. When the Lord returns, and sets up His kingdom, those who are the descendants of Abraham will be gathered together with the Lord. Now who is he speaking of? The Jews of course, but I don't think it is limited to believing Jews only. Some may disagree but we are told in Romans 4:11-12 , **“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.”**

Thus, not only the circumcised, that is the Jews, but the uncircumcised, that is the gentiles, will be gathered together. Jew and gentile have been brought together in Christ and they shall gather before the Lord, together, in the Kingdom Age. We long for that day when God will reign over the nations and think about that. If our God created the heavens and the earth, and He did. If our God will rule over the nations one day, and He will. Don't you think He can deal with the things we are going through on a daily basis? Of course He can, may we trust in Him as He rules and reigns in our hearts!

PSALM 48

This Psalm has as its focus Mount Zion, where the Temple was located and the place where Jesus Christ will rule and reign from in the Millennial Kingdom. Thus, Mount Zion is called the city of God.

VERSES 1-3

1. Jerusalem is 2,500 feet above sea level and thus, to go to Jerusalem, you must go up. God has set His holy city so that all can see it. Also, Jerusalem is surrounded on three sides by steep valleys and they proved a very effective barrier from attacking armies. The only vulnerable area is the north side and that is where the Assyrians and the Babylonians attacked. Why was this side not protected?

Because this is where the Temple was located! Thus, in a sense, the people were saying, “Don’t mess with our city because it is God who protects it. It is His city! It is God who watches over it.” From human eyes and a human perspective, that seems foolish, but God will protect those who worship Him! And God does inhabit the praises of His people and where we might seem most vulnerable; God is there ready to defend us, ready to protect us!

2. Now not only is the city of Jerusalem the city of attention because of its elevation, but because it is the place where God resides. And look at the news today; it is the focal point of the world as leaders try to figure out what to do with this city! To me it is simple, God gave it to the Jews and thus, it is theirs, end of story. But they don’t see it that way and thus, we see the turmoil that will continue to grow until it peaks during the Tribulation Period.

We see this spoken of in Zechariah 12:2-3, **“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”** That day is drawing near! And in the end, God will destroy their enemies and praise will fill the land!

You see, one day, true peace will come upon this city and this land. No longer will we see suicide bombings. No longer will we see the hatred and violence toward the Jewish people. And in the end, the eyes of the world will be focused upon this city of Jerusalem, not because of the turmoil that is taking place there, but because the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is ruling and reigning from this city!

VERSES 4-7

1. The coming of the Tribulation Period is spoken of as being like a woman in labor. At first the pains are few and far between and the pain is mild. But as the labor moves on, the pains get closer together and more intense until the child is born. During the Tribulation Period we see cataclysmic events starting out slow but as the 7 years draws to an end, they get more frequent and intense in nature. What is born out of this time is the Kingdom Age. The people living during the Tribulation Period will be terrified at the cataclysmic events that will take place. But just as you can't stop the labor of a pregnant woman, you won't be able to stop the Tribulation Period, for the Kingdom Age will be born.

This can also be speaking of the end of the Millennial reign of Christ as Satan is loosed for a season and those born during the Kingdom Age will have to make a choice to either come to Christ or reject Him. And sadly, many will reject Him and the Lord will quickly put down that rebellion and we will enter into the eternal state when the Lord creates a new heaven and earth and we will dwell with Him for eternity. No more death, no more sin, righteousness and peace for eternity!

VERSE 8

1. I like this. The people of God have heard and they have read about what God has done, the prophets have spoken and told them. But now something else is happening, they not only have heard of this but they now see it for themselves. It is the promises of God that are coming to pass and it is more than just hearing about them, they are now seeing them!

What about you? Are you just hearing about Jesus as you read His Word? And yes, that is important for us to do, but we must not only hear these things, we must see them! What do I mean by that? I mean that we need to see the Lord at work in our own lives. We need to see the promises that God has made to us being manifested in our own lives. We must hear and see!

2. And I see here that the Psalmist wants us to take a moment and dwell upon what God is going to do and then he goes on to explain that righteousness, justice will fill this land. How do we know that this will happen? Because we are told that, **“God will establish it forever.”**

VERSES 9-10

1. In seeing the lovingkindness of God, in seeing the righteousness of God, as seeing God dwell in His Holy Temple, it should bring praise to our lips. The praise of God for all He has done is doing and will do!

VERSES 11-14

1. There should be great rejoicing as God deals with the ungodly. God is going to deal with those who have rejected Him and they will not enter into the Kingdom Age or the Eternal State with Him!
2. Now after a battle it was very important to walk around the walls of the city to see if there has been any damage to the walls. You wanted to make sure the walls were intact to prevent any further invasions by the enemy through a weak spot in the wall. And the glorious thing here is that there is no damage, the walls are intact and the enemy is defeated and they were able to tell the next generation of all that God had done for them!

I think that is a great thing to do as we walk with the Lord. Write down those victories that God has given you. Write down those lessons He is showing you. What that will do is remind you of God's faithfulness and you will be able to share that with others to encourage them in the faith or to draw them to Jesus!

3. I think that it is very important for us to remember that God is in control. And that will never change nor should we want it to. He loves us so much and He wants what is best for our life. It is easy to lose sight of that fact but keep your eyes on the Lord, trust in His Word and don't let life's circumstances cause you to be defeated, discouraged, depressed, hopeless!

Remember in II Chronicles chapter 32 how Hezekiah encouraged the people as the Assyrians were threatening them. We are told starting in verse 1 of II Chronicles chapter 32, **“After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself. And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem, he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city; and they helped him. Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, ‘Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?’ And he strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken, raised it up to the towers, and built another wall outside; also he repaired the Millo in the City of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance. Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying, ‘Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.’ And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”** II Chronicles 32:1-8.

What strengthened the people? It was the Word of God spoken by Hezekiah and that is true for us today. We are strengthened by the Word of God in the battles we face because we know that God is with us and will fight for us. Don't enter the battle alone, you won't win! Think of this last verse in Psalm 48 like this, "This God is our God from eternity to eternity. He will be our guide even unto death, over death, and beyond death." With that kind of attitude and perspective, nothing will stop you from the work that God has called you to do, no matter how big the enemy may be, no matter how outnumbered you are. God is with you and that changes everything!

One last point as I bring this study to a close tonight. This last verse was the life verse of Jim Elliot. Jim Elliot was a missionary who was martyred for his faith as he tried to bring the Gospel message to the Auca Indians of Ecuador. Now you may hear that and feel that it was a tragic waste of a life, but it wasn't. As you look at what took place after this, you see that he was fruitful and thus, God was his guide even to death.

The legacy left behind by the 5 slain missionaries, including Jim Elliot, and their families still lives on today. The Auca Indians quickly realized their mistake in killing the very men that loved them enough to bring Christ's message of reconciliation to them. The Auca Indians were able to accept the message spoken of Christ's death because they were able to see the message lived. As Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Just as God was his guide, He will be your guide as well!