



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Thoughts that Inspire Worship

February 10, 2019

Psalms 48:1-14

“We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple” (Psalms 48:9).

During the reigns of King David and King Solomon, the LORD blessed His people beyond anything they could have ever imagined. As Psalms 48 reveals, the LORD empowered King David to build a fortress on Mount Zion, the LORD’s holy mountain, that was so elevated and situated that whenever invading Kings approached Jerusalem (up to that time) they panicked, trembled in fear, and fled. Jerusalem served as the city of the Great King, the LORD of the universe, where people went and praised the LORD who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt and all their enemies in the land the LORD had promised them. The city only became vulnerable to its enemies after God’s people turned from the LORD to serve idols; then, the LORD had to discipline them. The psalmist also encouraged the people to go into the presence of the LORD “in the midst of the temple” (they could only enter the outer courts) and think of the steadfast love of the LORD who had blessed them personally and as a nation. The LORD’s right hand was “filled with righteousness;” which meant that God always and only used His power for doing right. As the Great King over all the earth, the LORD passed judgments that rewarded faithfulness and punished evil; therefore, the psalmist encouraged the daughters of Jerusalem (perhaps meaning the people in the small towns and cities around Jerusalem) to rejoice. Today, when believers worship among the people of God they can do as the ancient Israelites: think of God’s steadfast love for them, praise God for His righteousness, and rejoice because His judgments are always loving, right, and true.

Thinking Further

1. Whose city is located on Mount Zion and what is its name? Describe some characteristics of this owner as revealed in Psalm 48?
2. Describe the city on Mount Zion.
3. How does the psalmist say the LORD has made himself known? What does that mean to you?
4. What did the kings do when they assembled at Mount Zion?
5. Where did the Israelites think of the steadfast love of God? What are some of the ways God showed His steadfast love to the Israelites?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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