

Psalm 48

Author: Sons of Korah

Jerusalem's history is full of victories. This song celebrates Jerusalem and the trembling power it had over its. The Leader of Heaven's Armies, El Elyon, God Most High, has chosen to take up residence in the city on the hill. His presence in this holy place makes it strong and invincible. The LORD is great, He is worthy of praise, and He calls Jerusalem home.

The Residency Of God

Jerusalem was strong. The enemies trembled at its leadership and its location. Positioned on top of a hill with valleys on the south, east, and west, it made the enemies' advance from the north, and it was difficult to hide. The city was hemmed in by four towers and ten gates. Who would dare attack such an intimidating, fortified city? Those inside the walls could be confident, safe, and live securely.

Today, God takes up residency in the hearts of every man or woman, boy or girl who invites Him in. His Word guards our mind. His presence provides physical protection by going before and coming after us (Ps.139:5). His Holy Spirit guides our soul with wise instruction. So we can live in confidence, safety, and security. The enemy should take note and beware, and he should approach a fortified life with caution.

Read James 4:7

What does our enemy do as a result of God's authority in our life?

Submission is the key to security in Christ. He resides in the life of every believer, but unless we submit to His leadership, we will live in fear, just like as a city with no towers, gates, or valleys. And like an army, following His leadership will make us strong and invincible. Our adversary will tremble as He approaches, knowing we are hemmed in and fortified by the Leader of Heaven's Armies, El Elyon, our God Most High.

The Right Hand Of God

The phrase *right hand of God* (v10) is referenced in both the Old and New Testament. God's right hand metaphorically represents His justice, His rightness, His infinite power and authority. As I visualize my Savior sitting at the right hand of God (Heb.12:2) watching over me, ready to act on my behalf, I am overwhelmed by His comfort and security.

I also love the prophet Isaiah's picture of God's mighty yet gentle right hand. This is a portrait of someone who is fearful of what lies ahead and needs to be lifted out of fear and into a place of faith. This person's courage is gone, and he is desperate for support. Have you been there? Perhaps the person in the portrait is you!

Read Isaiah 41:10.

Write the verse in the space below. Then circle all the things God will do.

Read Isaiah 41:13.

Which hand does God hold as He gives us help and support?

Can you picture it? God using His right hand (Isaiah 41:10) to hold our right hand (Isaiah 41:13). In order to hold a person's right hand, one must be face the other person. In our time of need, we can look up and see our powerful, loving, and gentle Father's face as He takes our right hand and assures us of His help.

The Ramparts, Towers, And Citadels

Read this aloud: "Walk about (fill in your name), go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, and view her citadels." (48:12)

This victory chant teases and taunts the enemy. It's somewhat of a dare to our enemy. In essence, it says, "You think you are strong? You think you can take me? Walk around me; look at my strongholds, defense, and center of command. You think you can take me, *I don't think so!*"

In recent days, I have found myself under enemy attack. The residency of Christ in me has always been secure, because He never leaves or forsakes His children. But my "citadel", my fortress was under attack. But through my daily Bible reading, I found an amazingly powerful word for my enemy in the book of Ezra.

Ezra has returned to Jerusalem, from Babylon, to begin construction on the Temple. As the construction began, enemies came to the construction site, taunting him and asking if they could "help." Ezra shot them a one-liner I won't soon forget.

Read Ezra 4:3a.

What does Ezra tell the enemy?

From the command post of our fortress, we can inform our enemy, "You will have not part of this work!" Girls, we have the power to command our enemy to flee (James 4:7). Let's repeat Ezra's fight chant and celebrate our strong, invincible God, His power, and His residency in our lives. The victory is ours!