

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

CITY OF GOD

PSALMS 48

Text:

Introduction:

It's very fitting that this psalm follows Psalms 47. In the previous psalm we discover the majesty of God over all the earth.

Here in the text the psalmist describes Zion as the city of our King.

In this psalm we read of at least four references to the city of God.

I want us to turn and read Revelation 21.

Note:

Revelation 21:2

² And I John saw **the holy city**, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:10

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and

high mountain, and shewed me **that great city**, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Note in verse 2 the expression “the holy city” and in verse 10 the expression “that great city.”

I want us to consider this evening the “That Great City the City of God.”

Note:

1. THIS CITY IS A REAL PLACE – I SAW

Revelation 21:1-2

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Liberals deny the existence of Heaven. They say that it only a state of mind, or wishful thinking, but the Lord stated, “I go to prepare a place for you.”

John 14:1-6

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto

myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

We note that John “saw” with his eyes a new heaven and a new earth.

This City is a Real Place.

Note also:

2. THIS CITY IS A READIED CITY – PREPARED

Revelation 21:2

*² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared** as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Nothing you see on this physical earth is going to last...nothing will remain. We all like to have nice things and we should enjoy them, but don't get too attached...they are not permanent.

The Lord has spent a lot of time, and is sparing no expense in readying heaven for us.

John compared this to a bride who has prepared for her husband.

Most of us can identify with this example.

We see that this city is Real and is Readied, but also:

3. THIS CITY IS A PLACE OF RELIEF

Revelation 21:4-5

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Nothing will ruin, rot, or rust. There will be no thirsting, or hungering. No itching, no blindness, no deafness, no diabetes, no cancer, or heart attacks, or scars.

Illustration:

I read the story of a little 5 year old girl who had never stayed the night with a friend before, and though a little nervous, she gave it a try.

She did fine during the daytime, but when it got dark she got nervous being in a strange place. The little

girl's friend's mother saw this and said, "Honey, are you getting homesick?" With childlike innocence she replied, "No ma'am, I'm getting here sick!"

And the more you may go thru down "here", the sweeter heaven will be for you!

Note: Romans 8:18-25

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, ²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. ²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? ²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

But the truth is the longer we live or wait the more “here sick” we become.

We see that this city is Real, Readied, and a City of Relief but also:

4. THIS CITY IS A PLACE OF REFRESHING

Revelation 21:6

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

When you're REALLY thirsty...you want what? Water!

In heaven, every righteous desire that we have will be perfectly and completely satisfied, once and for all!

Here on earth we pursue happiness, but don't ever completely find it, but in Heaven that thirst will be quenched!

In this life we often ask ourselves and others why?

WHY?
By Jack Hyles

I have heard the white-tipped tapping cane,
Which leads a blinded eye.
And then a darkened, lonely voice
Cries, "Preacher, show me why."

I have caught a fiancée's burning tears,
And heard her lonely cry.
She held an unused wedding gown,
And shouted, "Pastor, why?"

I have heard the cancer patient say,
" 'Tis gain for me to die;"
Then look into his daughter's face,
And mutely whisper, "Why?"

I've heard an orphan faintly say,
Who gazed into the sky,
"Tho Mom and Dad have gone away,
My preacher will know why."

I have sat beside a tiny crib,
And watched a baby die,
As parents slowly turned toward me,
To ask, "Oh, Pastor, why?"

I tiptoed to my Father's throne,
So timid and so shy,

To say, "Dear God, some of Your own
Are wanting to know why."

I heard Him say so tenderly,
"Their eyes I'll gladly dry,
Tho they must look through faith today,
Tomorrow they'll know why."

And so I've found it pleases Him
When I can testify,
"I'll trust my God to do what's best,
And wait to find out why."

Heaven is a Place of Refreshing.

We see that this city is Real, Readied, a city of relief
and refreshing but also:

5. THIS CITY IS A RESTRICTED CITY

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Right here in the middle of this positive, beautiful description of this city, God gives us a list of some who won't be there.

Why does God include this info? Perhaps to show that the sin which has cursed and ultimately destroyed this world will NOT be allowed into Heaven.

- The fearful—never accepted Christ, afraid to take the stand.
- The unbelieving—didn't believe at all in Christ or the Bible.
- The abominable—not just sinners...these have committed abominations.

What are some abominations?

- Sodomy

Leviticus 18:22

²²Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

- Astrology and Horoscopes

Deuteronomy 17:3

³And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

Deut. 18 says consulting a medium, fortuneteller, a wizard, or somehow communicates w/ the dead, they have committed an abomination.

Prov. 20 says cheating in business is an abomination.
“false balance”

Prov. 12 says compulsive lying is an abomination.

Prov. 16 says a heart full of pride is an abomination.

We also read of:

- Murderers

Includes all forms of homicide as well as infanticide.

- Whoremongers
- Sorcerers

Could mean witchcraft, but there's a deeper meaning. The Greek word here is pharmacia, and I believe it's talking about drugs and other chemical dependences.

- Idolaters

You have an idol if you love something more than God.

- Liars

Close:

Though we often experience difficult times in this life
one day for the believer we will enjoy the city of God.

The songwriter put it this way:

What a Day That Will Be

There is coming a day,
When no heart aches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky,
No more tears to dim the eye,
All is peace forever more,
On that happy golden shore,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there,
No more burdens to bear,
No more sickness, no pain,
No more parting over there;
And forever I will be,
With the One who died for me,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Chorus

What a day that will be,
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Are you prepared to meet the Lord?