

Every year thousands of people visit Salt Lake City, and, unfortunately, one of the reasons why people go there is to visit the Mormon Temple or Tabernacle. When we first moved to Idaho, people would come and want to go to see it and I would take them. When you walk around the Temple Square, there is a very real sense of dead, demonic oppression that is very present. In fact, I finally came to the point that I refused to go there or take someone there. If they wanted to go that was their business, but I didn't want to go anywhere near that place. Mormonism is a false system religion which draws in thousands. It is a carefully designed works system that appears to have a family focus and many people are drawn into its seductive lure. It is a satanic masterpiece and it draws thousands.

But there is coming a day when everyone in the world will be drawn to worship the true God of the true Bible. There is coming a day when all the people in the world will want to visit Jerusalem to worship God and to actually see God. This will happen one day after the Tribulation and it will happen during the Millennium and that is what is clearly discussed in **Psalm 48**.

I want us to notice the superscription—this is a Psalm “of the sons of Korah.” It is possible for people who have had imperfect backgrounds to sing this Song. It is possible for people who have had checkered pasts to look forward to this great moment and this hope is all due to the greatness of God.

Verse 1 begins “Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised.” There are a couple of things to think about here. **First**, “great is the LORD” and we cannot even begin to conceive how great God is. **Second**, this great God is to be greatly praised and one day He will be greatly praised by everyone in the world.

The prophet Isaiah made a remarkable prediction in Isaiah 2:2-3. He predicted that there would come a time when the Temple in Jerusalem would be so esteemed by the world that the people of the world would want to go there to be taught the Word of God.

Now the truth is, comparatively speaking, it is not the majority of people today who want to go to church so they may be carefully taught the Scriptures. Many people go for entertainment, social functions, movies, bands, plays, concerts, athletic events, relatives, but not many go because they want to be carefully taught the Scriptures. Yet Isaiah predicts that there will come a day in which “all” the people of the world will want to go to Jerusalem to hear the Word of God. **This is the essence of Psalm 48.**

THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN THE GREAT GOD WILL BE WORSHIPPED AND PRAISED BY THE WHOLE WORLD AT THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM .

Jerusalem is not like other cities of the world. It is not like Athens or Rome. It is not like New York or Atlanta. **Jerusalem is the city of God.**

Now most that go to Jerusalem today go there to visit a very important place of history. There are many tours that make Israel one of the major tourist attractions of the world. However, most that go to Israel are not going there because of the mindset that I will be taught the Word of God at the highest possible level and am going to worship God for His greatness.

But there will come a day when the world will want to travel to Jerusalem for these very purposes and that is exactly what this Psalm is all about. There are five reasons why the people of the world will desire to go to worship the great God.

REASON #1 – People will want to worship in Jerusalem because it will be beautiful in elevation. **48:1b-2a**

When we read a text like Revelation 21:2-3, 10-11, 16, we realize that there will come a day when all people of the world will be able to look in the direction of Jerusalem and see a dazzling, spectacular city coming down out of heaven that will draw all people of the world.

This city is described in language that is a literal, physical place where heaven meets earth and where men worship God. This city will stand out as the city of the world that features the beauty and majesty of God and all the people of the world will want to worship there.

REASON #2 – People will want to worship in Jerusalem because it will be a place of joy for the whole world. **48:2b**

Joy in life comes from being right with God, and in the future this joy will actually come from His city. Can you imagine a time when Jerusalem is a place of joy for the whole world?

Now I truly believe there is a N.T. hidden lesson here and that is to have joy, one must go to the place of true worship. In this dispensation it means the church. Part of the joy package means one worships on Sunday.

Years ago, there was a secular song about the loneliness of being in a city on Sunday. People who do not regularly attend church turn out to be some of the most depressing believers you will ever meet.

REASON #3 – People will want to worship in Jerusalem because it will be the place where God reigns as the Great King. **48:2c-3**

Notice carefully what is stated in these verses. This is the city of the “great king” and the “great king” is God. So what is clearly predicted here is that the God/King will reign and this God/King is none other than Jesus Christ.

REASON #4 – People will want to worship in Jerusalem because all powers were made to fear it and flee from it. **48:4-8**

Verse 4 is a prediction of what the political leaders of the world will eventually do. They will join in together in an attempt to destroy the Jews. When they get to the valley of Megiddo, Jesus Christ will put all these powers down in a battle called “Armageddon.” Jesus Christ will personally intervene and these powers will be destroyed.

According to **verse 5**, Jerusalem will be so filled with the presence and protection of God that some of the political leaders will see it and flee from it.

According to **verse 6**, panic will seize all who are against Jerusalem, but they will not escape.

Verse 7 makes it clear that merchant ships will move into the Mediterranean area against Israel and God will crush them. Merchant ships are ships that rely upon business security and not God. But as Spurgeon said, the one who relies upon God is the one who is the safest. An east wind, as we have seen in Exodus, is often a judgment wind.

If you were a ship heading east to Jerusalem and all of a sudden God sent a strong east wind against you to push you west, it would prevent you from getting to shore and if it was of the magnitude of the east wind of the Red Sea, it could destroy your ship.

Verse 8 makes it clear that in the end the people will want to visit this place and see the city that God protected and preserved. People will want to go see the place where God specifically intervened and did such powerful things.

One of the residual effects of building a church for the glory of God is that some people want to visit because they have heard that God has protected the church and has blessed the church.

REASON #5 – People will want to worship in Jerusalem because the whole world will be thinking about all God did for her. **48:9-10**

There will come a day when the whole world will realize the faithfulness of God in carrying out His plan with Israel. There will come a day when the whole world will be filled with God’s righteousness and when that day comes, the whole world will long to travel to Jerusalem to worship God at His temple. His name will be praised to all the ends of the earth.

Now in the remaining verses—**48:11-14**—God specifically addresses Jewish people. There are some wonderful things that are said in these verses and wonderful predictions that are made in these verses. We may make some wonderful applications, but there are three Jewish realities:

Jewish Reality #1 - There will come a day when all Jewish people will rejoice because of the judgments of God. **48:11**

Harry Bultema made an interesting observation about this verse when he said, “we should not only be glad of God’s salvation, but also because of His terrible judgments to come” (*Psalm*, p. 46).

Most people hate the thought of God’s coming judgments, but godly people will be glad and will rejoice knowing they are coming. Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, will be glad one day because of the judgments of God and so will the daughters of Judah. Israel will have been saved and delivered and she will be honored.

Jewish Reality #2 - There will come a day when the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of Jerusalem will be factually seen as a place of strength and glory. **48:12-13**

During the time of Solomon, people could walk around and see Jerusalem and the temple in all of its glory. People were able to look at it and testify of how God intervened and protected it. These were tangible reminders of the wonderful blessings of God.

Even to this day there are skeletal reminders of the temple in Jerusalem and Jewish people would be wise to consider that this place once was a glorious place of worship.

It is interesting that today many people visit the Holy Land and they hold services at the tomb of Jesus Christ, the Sea of Galilee and at the Garden of Gethsemane. But God never demanded worship services at any of these places around Jerusalem, but He did demand it at the Temple.

Well, the day worship will be back in Jerusalem at the temple. John Phillips made an interesting observation about **verses 12-13**; real worship is based on precise facts. **Worship is not based on fictitious fantasy but factual reality.**

For example, our faith in Jesus Christ is not based on feelings, but on fact. He literally came to this earth; He literally died on a cross and He literally rose again from the dead. We base our faith in Him on those facts.

Jewish Reality #3 - God’s Jewish people may know that God will be with them forever and will guide them through everything, including death. **48:14**

Death does not nullify the promises of God. God will always be faithful to His Word. God is directing His people and He is their God forever and ever and He is their guide even in moments of death.

There will come a time when the whole world will want to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship God. There will come a time when all people of the world will say, “let’s visit the city” and when they say it they will mean “let’s go to Jerusalem to worship God.”