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The  
Songs  
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# PSALMS - The SONGS

Forty-eight

Great is the LORD in Mount Zion!

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 48** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. He, His, Most High, King, etc.), with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 48** and underline every reference the city of God in purple. Include all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. His holy mountain, Mount Zion, Zion, her, city of the LORD of hosts, etc.).

Read through **Psalm 48** and mark every reference to the nation of Israel, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. our, daughters of Judah), with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 48** and mark every reference to the nations, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. kings, them), with a purple flag.

Read through **Psalm 48** and mark every reference to praise, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. sing, skillful psalm), with a blue musical note.

Read through **Psalm 48** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 48** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The LORD is great in Mount Zion
2. The kings were terrified
3. Your people rejoiced

## READ AND ANSWER

### Psalm 48:1-3

Who is great?

How much should the LORD be praised for His greatness?

In what place does the LORD show His greatness?

1.

2.

In what place should the LORD be greatly praised?

Whose God is the LORD?

How is the city of Israel's God described? (Hint: Start in **verse 1**.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Is this the LORD's city on earth or in heaven? (Hint: Read the entire **Psalm**.)

What is true about Mount Zion's elevation?

How does Mount Zion relate to the whole earth?

Where is Mount Zion located? (According to the text.)

Who dwells in Mount Zion?

What dwellings does Mount Zion contain?

What has God shown Himself to be?

Where did God show Himself to be a stronghold?

For whom is God a stronghold? (According to this **Psalm**.)



**What is a stronghold?**

**The Hebrew word for “stronghold” is *misgab* and means a cliff or other lofty inaccessible place.**

**Figuratively it refers to a refuge.**

**It carries the meaning of a place of defense, such as a high fort or tower.**

**Psalm 48:4-8**

What is the first word in this section?

What does the word “for” mean we need to do?

How does God make Himself known as a stronghold?

Who assembled themselves?

Who are the kings?

Where did they assemble themselves?

What did they do as a group?

What did they see?

How did they react to what they saw?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



**The Hebrew word for “amazed” is *tamah* and means to be astounded or astonished.**

**The Hebrew word for “terrified” is *bahal* and means to tremble inwardly. It has the idea of being suddenly alarmed or agitated.**

**The Hebrew word for “fled in alarm” is *chafaz* and is a primitive root that means to start up suddenly or to hasten away or to fear.**

**The Hebrew word for “panic” is *radah* and means to shudder or tremble.**

**The Hebrew word for “anguish” is *chiyl*  
and means agony.  
It has the idea of writhing or trembling in terror.**

Let me ask again. What exactly (or Who) do they see that causes the kings to be so terrified? (Hint: **verse 3**)

What does the LORD do?

What does He use to break the ships of Tarshish?

Who sees the LORD break the ships of Tarshish?

1.

2.

Who has heard?

What have they heard?

Who has also seen?

What have they seen?

Where will this be seen?

1.

2.

Where is the city of the LORD of hosts?

What will God do for Mount Zion?

**Psalm 48:9-14**

What has the righteous remnant of Israel done?



**The Hebrew word for “thought” is *damah* and means to compare or consider.**

**The Hebrew word for “lovingkindness” is *chesed* and is a primitive root that means to bow, to be kind, or beauty. It has the idea of unfailing steadfast love.**

Have you thought on (compared and considered) God’s lovingkindness (His unfailing steadfast love which He bowed down in beautiful kindness and condescension to lavish upon us) lately?

Where has Israel thought on God’s lovingkindness?

What comparison is made in **verse 10**?

What does it mean that God’s praise is to the ends of the earth?

What does it mean that God’s Name is to the ends of the earth?

What fills God’s right hand (the hand of power)?

What does it mean that God’s right hand is full of righteousness?

How is this connected to the fact that His Name and praise are to the ends of the earth?  
What has He done?

Why should (will) Mount Zion be glad?

Why will the daughters of Judah rejoice?

In context, what are His judgments?

What are the daughters of Judah, the residents of Mount Zion, told to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Why are they told to examine Mount Zion carefully and thoughtfully?

What are they to tell to the next generation?

What does, “for such is God” mean?

What is “such”?

Why is Mount Zion in such a glorious state?

What confidence will Israel have in her God?

What significance does it have that God, the One Who has done all this in Mount Zion, exists forever and ever?

What assurance does Israel have?

## READ AND REASON

Assuming that you are studying many of the **Psalms** and not just this one, let me ask you a question: “Isn’t it amazing how many of them are actually about future events concerning Messiah?” **Psalm 48** has definitely not been fulfilled... yet...

Although the language of **Psalm 48** seems to transcend the earthly Mount Zion at times (i.e. Mount Zion in the far north) it is consistently tethered to the earth (i.e. the joy of the the whole earth, the kings, the ships of Tarshish, the daughters of Judah walking through the city, etc.).

The greater questions then become ones of time rather than place. When does this Mount Zion exist? Has it already come and gone? Does it exist now? Will it exist in the latter days? Will it exist before or after Messiah comes again? Does it refer to the new Jerusalem which will be on the new earth after the Millennial Reign of Messiah?

While God certainly has, at times, made Himself known as a stronghold for the nation of Israel, the nations were never completely convinced that the God of Abraham was able to maintain His dominion forever. During David’s time, for example, the city was spectacular, but wars continued. Another critical assertion this **Psalm** makes is that the entire world praises Israel’s God. This simply has not happened... not yet...

And while God did break the ships of Tarshish during Jehoshaphat’s reign, it was only one of many foreshadows of the final “boat-breaking” that God intends to do. Jehoshaphat acted wickedly against the LORD, and in self-reliance and arrogance defied the true King. But the LORD destroyed his works—the ships he had made for himself to go to Tarshish—and the broken boats could not sail... **2 Chronicles 20:31-37**

One day, however, the LORD of hosts will have a day when He sets all things straight... Man will be put in his place (which is under God) and God will take His rightful place (which is above all). The LORD alone will be exalted in that most wonderful day!

The beginning of the end will start with the nations of the world gathering together to thrust off the yoke of righteousness that they hate so very much. **Psalm 2** They will gather at the valley of Armageddon in Israel in order to march against Jerusalem, God’s beloved city, in order to destroy her—instead, they will be stopped in their tracks while they watch the powerful hand of the LORD save her. They will be terrified and flee in

alarm. Yes, the ships of Tarshish, and all the self-governing ways of man will suddenly come to an end when the LORD of hosts takes His place as King over the earth!

In the aftermath of the LORD'S great victory, the righteous remnant of Israel will consider the lovingkindness of their faithful God—His temple will be glorious, His Name will be renowned, and His praise will be heard to the ends of the earth... and righteousness will be the law of the land. **Isaiah 2:1-4**

Mount Zion and all who live in her will be glad; the daughters of Judah (which often refers to the future righteous remnant of Israel) will rejoice because of the judgments their God has delivered. Israel will be able to walk around the city of Jerusalem (after her final return from the nations) exulting in what the LORD has done and confidently, knowing that her peace will never be threatened again. They will know it was the hand of the LORD Who did this great and marvelous thing... **Isaiah 60:1-22**

That coming day, the Day of the LORD, is the setting of **Psalms 48**. In that day, God will be acclaimed and celebrated, revered and worshiped, throughout all the world as He reigns from His throne on Mount Zion—His chosen dwelling place. The world will finally see Who He really is... and acknowledge it... because He will have won the final victory... forever and ever...

#### **Isaiah 2:12-17**

***For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning***

***Against everyone who is proud and lofty***

***And against everyone who is lifted up,***

***That he may be abased.***

***And it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up,***

***Against all the oaks of Bashan,***

***Against all the lofty mountains,***

***Against all the hills that are lifted up,***

***Against every high tower,***

***Against every fortified wall,***

***Against all the ships of Tarshish***

***And against all the beautiful craft.***

***The pride of man will be humbled***

***And the loftiness of men will be abased;***

***And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.***

## ~ Segment by Segment

Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.

Verses 1-3

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Verses 4-8

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Verses 9-14

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## ~ Purpose of Psalm 48

Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 48.  
The purpose simply states “*why* the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.

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## ~ Theme of Psalm 48

Try giving Psalm 48 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states “*what* the Psalm is about”.

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