

Psalm 48 – Safety in Christ**Psalm 48****Stanza 1 (v 1-3)**

YHWH is great and worthy of our praise.

... he is “in her”

... he is reason why Jerusalem is a fortress.

Stanza 2 (v4 -7)

... what YHWH has done in the protection of his city

Verse 8 ... both heard and seen that God makes his city secure forever.

Stanza 3 (v 9-11)

... praises YHWH for his unfailing love

... also his righteous judgment he is to be praised for.

Stanza 4 (v12-14)

... needs to be told to the next generation.

...the one we follow as our guide.

Getting this psalm wrong

In the OT,

... no one would ever challenge them as a nation because they had YHWH’s temple there.

Jeremiah 7

... looming judgement and the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the temple ... because of their unrepentant disobedience.

BUT ... the city of God is only secure in the way Psalm 48 is saying because God is there...

Misunderstood by many churches today.

in the OT, Zion is the place where God dwelt among his people.

But, in the NT, things change significantly,

- **Zion is no longer in a city in the middle east.**
- **In Jesus, Zion is fulfilled.**
 - **Mat 12:6, something greater than the temple is here. Jesus said destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days.**

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- no longer do people go to a building to meet Jesus.
- Jesus is the one we go to in order to meet the Father. He is the perfect mediator between us and God the Father.
- the local church foreshadows Zion.
 - 1 Cor 3:16, the local church is referred to as the place God dwells
“do you not know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s spirit dwells your midst”
- heaven is the perfect and permanent expression of Zion

Hebrews 12:18ff

For us today

1) Security in Christ

... with Jesus we have a confident hope NOW in an eternal security won for us by Jesus on the cross.

... our local church is vital since it is a foretaste of the heavenly reality,

... keep pointing people toward Heaven, the place of perfect Zion

2) Ultimate security in heaven for all eternity

... we need to also raise our eyes to heaven and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

3) Delighting in and grasping hold of

4) Let him guide you

5) Praise his name