

Questions on Psalm 84

1. Use your concordance, Bible search program, or Bible Dictionary to learn about the sons of Korah. Where did they originate? What was their allegiance during David's various conflicts? What was their levitical function? Compare v. 10.
2. What psalms are ascribed to Korah? Can you explain why they are not collected together contiguously? (Hint: in which book of the Psalms are the others located, and what distinguishes that book?)
3. This psalm shares a number of phrases with another psalm by the sons of Korah. Which one is it, and how does that psalm help you understand the situation of the writer in this psalm? Compare v. 9.
4. The two instances of *selah* suggest a division of the psalm into three parts of four verses each. What is the main theme of each division?
5. Why might vv. 4 and 8 lead someone to challenge this division, and how might you answer such a challenge?
6. How does our Lord imitate the logic of vv. 2-3 in his teaching?
7. Use Strongs to find a more precise translation of “way” in v. 5. Where does this way lead, and what does it mean to have such a way in one's heart?
8. What meaning does Strongs suggest for Baca in v. 6, and how does that meaning form an ironical contrast with the rest of the verse? (The word may also refer to a tree that was common in one of the valleys leading up to Jerusalem, but in that case it would be a pun for the meaning given in Strongs.)
9. Meditate on the expression “from strength to strength” in v. 7. “From X to X” is most commonly used with nouns describing places or times, to indicate progress along a journey. What might it mean with abstract nouns? Compare Jer 9:3; Rom 1:17; 2 Cor 2:16.
10. In v. 11, what two aspects of God's care for his people are captured in “sun and shield,” or “grace and glory”?
11. Three times the psalmist describes someone as “blessed.” What progress can you detect among these references as you move through the Psalm?