

Feb 10, 2019



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Some of us are inclined to look at the world and see only what's wrong. DeWitt Jones a National Geographic photographer waits and watches until a shaft of light or turn of perspective suddenly reveals a wonder that had been there all along

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Father in heaven, we've spent too much time thinking only about what is wrong and broken with our world. Please help us to see evidence of Your presence in the wonder of what only You could have done

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen*

(Rom 11:36 NKJV)

*from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 16, 2018)*

**Series: Our Love For God**

**UNIT: Songs that Glorify  
the God of Love**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Our Mighty God**

(Psalms 66:1-9, 11-16)

## **Our Loving God Psalms 48:1-3, 9-14**

**Lesson Background and Introduction**

Psalm 48 is often categorized as one of the Zion Songs. This category also includes Psalms 46; 76; 84; 87, and 122 (some students also include 126; 129, and 137). These celebrate the glory of Mount Zion, the hill on which the temple in Jerusalem stood. They are concerned with the theme of God's kingship, having been written against a backdrop of competing gods and warring nations. Nationalism and religion were inseparable in biblical times, and each nation was thought to have a dominant deity who was responsible for the protection of its people. When nations warred, their gods warred as well. We see this in Exodus 12:12, where God, preparing Israel for the tenth and most devastating plague, says, On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. Thematically, these songs celebrate God as Israel's king, who chose to rest his presence in Jerusalem and, in it, the temple (Psalm 46:5; 76:2; 84:1; 87:1-3; 122:1-3; plus today's text). From a perspective of comparative religion, a deity choosing to rest his presence on a strong mountain was not unique. For example, the pagan deity El was said to reside on Mount Zaphon (see more on Psalm 48:2, below). What is exceptional is the theme that God's reign doesn't stop at Israel's borders. He is "the great King over all the earth" (Psalm 47:2, plus today's text; compare 1 Kings 20:23, 28).

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**God Is the Victor** - Many of the psalms are associated with Israel's historical battles. The sons of Korah, organizers of the temple worship music, may have arranged this particular song to celebrate any number of war victories—David's defeat over the Philistines, King Jehoshaphat conquering the Amorites and Moabites, or the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian king Sennacherib. It's unclear which of Israel's battles the psalm referred to, but one thing is certain: Jehovah received all the glory for coming to their rescue. According to this passage and many other Scriptures, the Lord's constant care for His children is undeniable. These past events highlight God's love and ought to be uppermost in the mind of a believer.

**God is Worthy to be Praised** - The psalmist wrote that the Lord deserves praise because He is superior over man and unlike any other gods or idols. God's mighty power is able to overthrow entire armies.

**God's Mountain** - This particular hymn identified Mt. Zion or Jerusalem as the place where worship celebrations took place. In biblical days, people referred to it and the temple as God's residence, the city of the mighty King. Israel built the first and second temples there. Known for its elevation and beauty, delighting the eyes of the world, it is also as a refuge for God's people.

**God's Love** - The temple itself stood as a monument of God's faithfulness and continuous love. He established a place to meet Him, give thanks, offer prayers, and receive His compassion and forgiveness. Here, people expressed their gratitude to Him.

**God's Reputation** - God's name was connected to Israel. Because of His everlasting covenant with them, He promised a faithful remnant would always remain to serve Him, no matter what happened to the nation. Each of Israel's generations must know of His steadfast commitment and love.

**God's Call** - When Christians talk about a call, what usually comes to mind is God asking for something to be done—a mission overseas or a local ministry project. But each day God is calling for each of His children to stop for a moment and intensely think about how much He loves them. This will add fuel to your spiritual fire and keep in proper focus anything He sets out for you to do that day

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### God's Love Glorifies Zion (Ps 48:1-3)

#### *With His greatness (1)*

- Greatness because He is the Creator (Gen 1:1)
- Greatness because He is the great I AM (Ex 3:13-14)
- Greatness because He proclaimed Himself LORD (Ex 34:5-7)
- Greatness because He is perfect (Matt 5:48)
- Greatness because of His eternal powers (Rom 1:20)
- Greatness because He is immortal (1 Tim 1:17)
- Greatness because of His acts of power (Ps 150:2)
- Greatness because He is the Lord (Ezek 38:23)
- Greatness because He is worthy (Ps 48:1)
- Greatness because He is the great King (Ps 95:3)

#### *With His presence (2)*

- God's presence because God fills the heaven and earth (Jer 23:23-24)
- God's presence because without God's presence, man is doomed (Ex 33:15-16)
- God's presence because of His unfailing love (Ps 119:76)
- God's presence because He is the God of comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4)
- God's presence because of His compassion (Isa 49:13)
- God's presence because of His eternal blessings (Ps 21:6)

#### *With His protection (3)*

- Protection through God being our refuge (Ps 9:9)
- Protection through God being our rock, fortress and deliverer (Ps 18:2)
- Protection through God being an ever-present help in trouble (Ps 46:1)
- Protection through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)
- Protection through God's knowledge of how to rescue godly men (2 Peter 2:9)

### God's Love in His Leadership (Ps 48:9-11)

#### *Because of His mercy (9)*

- Mercy because He loves us (Rom 5:8)
- Mercy because Jesus took the initiative and bore all of our transgressions (Isa 53:5-6)
- Mercy because God is faithful and righteous (Rom 3:3-5)
- Mercy because of His grace (Eph 2:8-9)
- Mercy because it is mercy that prompted God's salvation (Rom 9:16)
- Mercy which started before the beginning of time (2 Tim 1:9)
- Mercy empowers perseverance (James 5:11)
- Mercy makes Christians a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

#### *Because of His righteousness (10)*

- The righteousness of God because righteousness is in God alone (Isa 45:24)
- The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus (Phil 3:9)
- The righteousness of God through Jesus (Rom 3:19-23)
- The righteousness of God through the obedience of Jesus (Rom 5:19)
- The righteousness of God through the gospel (Rom 1:17)
- The righteousness of God through the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:5)
- The righteousness of God through pursuit of it (2 Tim 2:22)

#### *Because of His judgments (11)*

- A judgment that will bring everything to light (1 Cor 4:5)
- A judgment that judges men's secrets (Rom 2:16)
- A judgment of the nations (Matt 25:31-33)
- A judgment entrusted to Jesus by God (John 5:21-22)
- A judgment that all will stand before (Rom 14:10)
- A judgment that judges what was done in the body (2 Cor 5:10)
- A judgment that is destined for man (Heb 9:27)

### God's Love in Future Generations (Ps 48:12-14)

#### *Based on His protection (12-13)*

- Protection from things in the world (1 John 4:4)
- Protection of soul (Ps 57:1)
- Protection from evildoers (Ps 14:6)
- Protection because we are God's child (Prov 14:26)
- Protection by the hands of God (John 10:28-30)

#### *Based on His faithfulness (14)*

- Faithfulness that never changes (Mal 3:6)
- Faithfulness that every day proves He never fails (Zeph 3:5)
- Faithfulness that is higher than the skies and mightier than mountains (Ps 36:5-7)
- Faithfulness that stands firm forever (Ps 89:1-2)
- Faithfulness that is unconditionally merciful and forgiving (Dan 9:9)
- Faithfulness that cannot be disowned (2 Tim 2:13)
- Faithfulness that is unswerving (Heb 10:23)
- Faithfulness that is just and powerful (1 John 1:9)