

Sermon Weekly Devotions

PSALMS 46, 47, 48

780

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
6 The heathen raged; the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge: Selah.
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD: what desolations he hath

46:5
Deut. 33:14
Isa. 12:6
Ezek. 43:7, 9
Hos. 11:5
Joel 2:27
Zeph. 3:15
Zech. 25:10, 11
Ps. 46:5
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the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
9 The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.
Greatness of the Lord

781

PSALMS 48, 49, 50

12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.
13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following.
14 For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.
Trust Not in Riches

48:14
Isa. 58:11
49:2 Ps. 62:9
49:4 Ps. 78:2
Matt. 13:35
49:5 Ps. 38:4
49:6
Job 31:24, 25
Ps. 52:7
52:10
Mark 10:24
1 Tim. 6:17
49:7
Matt. 16:26
49:8
Job 36:18, 19

after their own names.
12 Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.
13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.
14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning: and

No Fear of the Future

Day 1: God's people receive abundant blessing and fearless hope.

When worry creeps in while unpacking tubs and hauling that tree out of the basement, remember that the faithful are promised blessing, light in the darkness, and a steady heart that is not afraid of bad news; let the picture of grace poured out on God's people reshape the way you look at every small holiday anxiety and the bigger fears about the future. [41:01]

Psalm 112 (ESV)

- 1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!
- 2 His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- 5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.
- 6 For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.
- 7 He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.
- 8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
- 9 He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!

Reflection: Name one specific worry that tends to surface during this season; read Psalm 112 aloud tonight and write one verse or short phrase from it that directly counters that worry, then save that line on your phone and read it whenever anxiety arises today.

Day 2: Remember God's past redemption to trust the future.

When preparing for Christmas and looking forward to the return of Christ, intentionally look backward at God's acts of deliverance—how he brought Israel out of slavery, parted the sea, and kept covenant—to build confidence that the same faithful God will keep his promises tomorrow; let past rescue stories become fuel for future hope. [43:06]

Psalm 111 (ESV)

- 1 Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;
- 8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Reflection: Tonight, pick one story of God's past deliverance (an Old Testament example or a personal rescue), write a short paragraph describing how God acted then, and send that paragraph to one person before the week ends so the memory of God's faithfulness strengthens your hope for tomorrow.

Day 3: Emmanuel: God became man for our salvation.

Celebrate the truth that the King of all creation was willing to be born as a helpless baby, fed and changed by ordinary hands, so that God would be truly with us; let the incarnation—God becoming man—be the concrete reminder that God desires relationship with you here and now, even amid the chaos of holiday logistics. [46:02]

Matthew 1:23 (ESV)

- 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Reflection: Choose one holiday action you will do today (decorate a tree, light an Advent candle, sing a carol) and do it intentionally as a declaration of "Emmanuel, God with us"; while you do it, pray for God to reveal his presence in one anxious area of your life and note what arises.

Day 4: God keeps covenant; he delivers his people.

When fear about the future presses in, remember that God has a pattern of faithful rescue—bringing Noah through the flood, delivering Israel out of Egypt, keeping covenant promises—so practical preparation can be done without living from a place of dread because the Lord fights for his people and acts on their behalf. [43:46]

Exodus 14:13-14 (ESV)

13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.

14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Reflection: Identify one present "Red Sea" problem that feels overwhelming (finances, travel, family conflict); name one practical step you will take today toward that issue, then read Exodus 14:13-14 aloud and do that step in faith.

Day 5: Saved by grace; nothing can separate us.

Hold fast to the assurance that baptism and God's grace mark you as his child, and that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection secure a future without fear—no bad gift, storm, or mistake can change the truth that nothing in all creation can separate you from God's love. [47:39]

Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection: Find (or write) the date or memory of your baptism or a moment you experienced God's grace; today write "I am a baptized child of God" on an index card and place it somewhere you will see often this week, and when doubts come read Romans 8:38-39 aloud.