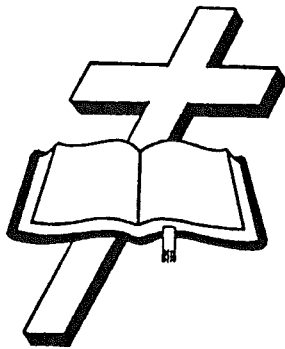


THE VALLEY OF BACA

(Divine Resources That Take You Through Every Valley)
Judges 2:1-5 / Psalm 84:1-12



GOD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH

- ◆ We Receive God's Perspective
- ◆ We Receive God's Strength
- ◆ We Receive God's Grace
- ◆ We Receive God's Reward

“Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength” (Psalm 84:6,7)

Bill Kirk

“THE WAY OUT IS THE WAY THROUGH”

Text: Judges 2:1-5 Psalm 84:1-12

Subject: Resources From God That Take You Through Every Valley In Life

Introduction

Question: How many of you have ever gone through a spiritual valley?

Question: How many of you have ever been weak and in need of strength?

Question: How many of you have ever lost God’s long term perspective just for a moment in the present?

(If so, you’re a boat with many passengers)

- ◆ Psalm 84 is the diary of a valley walker.
- ◆ It is the record of one traveling on a journey.
- ◆ It is a revelation that calms every fear.
- ◆ It is a promised guarantee from God to your heart.

Question: In Vs. 1-4, why is the psalmist longing for the house of God?

Question: In V. 5, what is the reward of being whole hearted for the Lord?

Question: In V. 6, how do you make a well in the valley?

Question: In V. 7, what does it mean to go from strength to strength?

Question: In Vs. 8-12, what are the great rewards for seeking first the kingdom of God?

Grasp The Setting of Psalm 84:

1. The psalmist is on a journey towards the temple courts.
2. He is far removed from comfort and ease.
3. He is longing to be in God’s house of worship.
4. He is presently going through a growing season.
5. He receives from God (and reveals to us) how to go through every valley of life.

Question: What is the valley of Psalm 84?

Answer: (V. 6) It is the valley of Baca.

Question: What is the valley of Baca?

Answer: The word “Baca” is a word that refers to shrubs that grow in rough places.

Question: So what is the valley of Baca?

Answer: For the psalmist, it is the valley of hardship or weeping.

(Remember)

- ◆ Valleys (by nature) are depressed places,
- ◆ They cause you to cry out for the mountaintop,
- ◆ They make you want to hurry up and get beyond where you are.

Fact: The valley of Baca is mentioned in Judges 2:1-5.

Fact: It received its name from the weeping of the Jews.

Fact: The Jews were rebuked by the Lord for their disobedience.

Fact: This took place in Bochim, and Judges 2:4 records: “The people lifted up their voice and wept”.

Question: But what about today pastor?

Question: What about me and where I live?

Question: What is it that enables me to get out (by going through) the Valley of Baca?

- ◆ In Psalm 84, God reveals the resources for all who believe,
- ◆ What to receive from God that takes you through every valley.

I. We Receive God's Perspective On Time (Vs. 1-4)

Question: What is the greatest danger in the valley's you go through?

Answer: The greatest danger is to lose your perspective on time.

- ◆ When all you can see is the present,
- ◆ When all you can think upon is right now,
- ◆ When all you can dwell on is what is immediately in front of you.

Question: How does the psalmist get through the Valley of Baca?

Answer: In v. 1, he thinks about the tabernacle he is heading towards.

- ◆ In v. 2, he longs to be in the courts of God in prayer and worship.
- ◆ In v. 3, he sees the sparrows resting in the place that he wants to be in.
- ◆ In v. 4, he sees himself having arrived at God's house (and all doubts, fears, and worries are gone).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The writer of Psalm 84 is looking beyond the present.
- ◆ He is anticipating when the valley is behind him.
- ◆ He understands that where he is, is a season not a stop (it's just a part of the journey).
- ◆ He knows that he won't always be in a Valley of Baca.

Question: Pastor, how does he know that God will see him through to his destination?

Answer: Because (in v. 3) he acknowledges that the sparrows made it to God's house.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If God has been faithful to see others through, then God will be faithful to see you through.
- ◆ If God enabled others to get beyond their present season, God will enable you as well.

Question: What is the secret to getting through Baca?

Answer: #1. Receive God's perspective on time. "Though now for a season if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" (I Peter 1:6)

(What Is It That Takes Us Through Every Valley?)

II. We Receive God's Strength In Our Weakness (V. 5)

(V. 5) "Blessed are those whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are the ways of them".

Question: What is the psalmist saying in V. 5?

Answer: Two things that provoke us to passion:

- #1. We will be blessed to the degree that our strength is in the Lord. **(and)**
- #2. Our strength in the Lord will be equal to the desire within our heart.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Since our stamina and strength are not enough, God is disposed to make us strong.
- ◆ But, His strength only comes to a certain kind of person.

Question: Pastor, who is it that is strong (who are the strong believers in the church?)

Answer: (V. 5) "...In whose heart are the ways of them"

(What Does It Mean?)

"In whose heart are the ways of them?"

- #1. This refers to the one whose heart is in pursuit of God.
- #2. This refers to the one whose heart is committed to reach the tabernacle to worship God.
- #3. This refers to the one whose heart and soul is devout and focused and locked in with God.
- #4. This refers to the one who puts all of their energies into prayer, worship, and the Word.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Those traveling in the journey are wasting their time if they leave their hearts behind them.

(It Means)

- ◆ To the degree our hearts pursue God's heart and obey His ways, to that same degree we will enjoy God's approval and be strong.
- ◆ Our progress in God will go no further than our obedience takes us.

Question: What is it that takes us through the valley?

#1. We receive God's perspective on time. (Through faith)

#2. We receive God's strength in our weakness. (Through obedience)

III. We Receive God's Grace To Overcome (Vs. 6-9)

Question: How do you know (and how can you be sure) that the valley doesn't swallow you up?

Answer: (V. 6) "Who passing through the Valley of Baca make it a well, the rain also filleth the pools".

Question: How does your valley become a blessing?

Question: How do you go through it (instead of sink while you're in it?) (V. 6)

#1. Passing through the valley you make a well.

#2. The rain fills the pools where you are.

Question: What does it mean to make a well while you are in the valley?

Question: And, what does it mean to have rain fill the empty pools?

- ◆ This is God's guarantee that your valley of trial can become a blessing.
- ◆ This is God's promise to do something where He finds you. **(In Other Words)**

- #1. God's plan is to provide you with refreshment, even in the dreariest part of the road.
- #2. God's plan is to provide you water in the place you weep.
- #3. God's plan is to provide you rain where you shed tears.
- #4. God's plan is to provide hidden springs of water as you dig deeper in prayer.
- #5. God's plan is to provide grace that is sufficient to enable you to overcome every lie of discouragement.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Where you are tempted to get bitter, sour, resentful or angry...
- ◆ God pours out grace as we humble ourselves and He turns our curse into a blessing.

(In V. 6) The Rain Fills The Pools" Means:)

- ◆ That where there are no natural supplies from below, we can find abundant water from above.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Instead of fainting in the journey below, we find new strength to proceed to higher ground!!!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Baca can become a well instead of a grave.

In the valley: #1. We receive God's perspective on time. (Through faith)
#2. We receive God's strength in our weakness. (Through obedience)
#3. We receive God's grace to overcome. (Through humility)

IV. We Receive God's Reward For Right Choices

(V. 10) "One day in God's presence is better than 1,000 days apart from God in the world"

(V. 10) "Door keeping in God's house, is better than the most ravished lifestyle of the unsaved.

(V. 11) "No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly".

(It Is God's Reward For Right Choices)

- #1. We chose to seek first the kingdom of God, and that joy is far greater than every other joy.
- #2. We chose the humblest service in the work of God, and the reward is more valuable than a 20 million dollar a year baseball contract.
- #3. We chose to walk uprightly with a pure spirit, and God sees to it that everything we will ever need is provided for us.

(Even In The Valley)

- ◆ We know it pays to serve God
- ◆ We know it pays to remain faithful
- ◆ We know it pays to live eternity minded.

Question: Why is (v. 10) in your Bible?

Answer: Because in the valley, people are tempted to envy those who seem better off without God.

(Charles Spurgeon Said)

"The most favorable circumstances in earthly pleasures cannot be compared so much as one in a thousand to the delights in serving God" **(He also said)**

"One day knowing the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, is better than 1,000 years of life apart from the Savior."

Question: What are the resources that make Baca a blessing?

- #1. We have God's perspective on time. (Through faith in God for the future)
 - ◆ You never stay in the valley forever. (It is only temporary!)
- #2. We have God's strength in weakness. (Through obedience to the Word)
 - ◆ Our desire allows God to make us strong. (As we align ourselves with Him)
- #3. We have God's Grace to overcome. (Through humility and meekness)
 - ◆ Even in the valley we make a well that sustains us. (The curse becomes a blessing)
- #4. We have God's reward for right choices. (Through living for eternal values)
 - ◆ We chose to dwell in God's presence, and God chooses to share Himself with us!

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor