

## Messages From the Psalms III: God's House – Psalm 84

December 18, 2018

### First Things First

- The Gittith that's mentioned in the superscript is most likely a musical instrument
- The sons of Korah were a group of Levites
- The courts were an outer section of the Temple complex; like a vestibule or lobby in modern churches, it was a gathering place for worshippers
- Baca is derived from the Hebrew word for tears; therefore the Valley of Baca means valley of tears

### Going Deep

- 1) Like Psalm 23's reference to the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the Valley of Baca is a reference to an unpleasant experience, situation or circumstance. What kinds of unpleasant experiences, situations and circumstances might a person of faith encounter as they make their way to the place of worship?

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- 2) Today's lesson suggests that the process of preparing to worship God can give believers the power to transform negative experiences into sources of strength. What kinds of things, if any, do you do to prepare yourself for worship?

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- 3) Do you agree with the Psalmist who claims that a day in the outer portion of God's Temple is better than a thousand days somewhere else? If so, why?

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- 4) Toward the end of the psalm, the Psalmist claims that God will not withhold good things from those who walk uprightly/with integrity. How can a believer make sure that s/he is walking with integrity?

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- 5) The psalmist displays a longing to be in the house of worship in today's lesson because something is preventing access to the temple. What kinds of things might prevent a modern day believer from having access to a place of worship?

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