

Psalm 84:4

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they will still be praising you. Selah NKJV

How happy are those who can live in your house, always singing your praises. Interlude NLT

Blessed—happy, fortunate [to be envied]—are those who dwell in your house and your presence; they will be singing your praises all day long. Selah [pause; and calmly think of that]. AMP

Blessed:

'esher- happiness; how happy!

Dwell:

Yashab-to sit down (specifically as judge. in ambush, in quiet); to dwell, to remain; to settle, to marry

House:

Bayith-a house (in the greatest variation of applications, especially family, etc.)

Still:

ʾowd-iteration or continuance; again, repeatedly, still, more

Praising:

Halal-be clear (orig. of sound, but usually of color); to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; to celebrate

When I read this psalm by the sons of Korah I get the idea of a newly married couple or maybe a couple who has just had their first child. The joy of the new spouse or the newborn baby seems to fit the phrase “how happy.” That idea carries over to the phrase “dwells in your house.”

To dwell in God’s house means we live there. This is not a place we visit occasionally; we remain there. We are settled in like a married couple with a baby. God’s house is his family; the body of Christ. God lives in his body. When we are a part of that family (body) we live where he lives; in his presence.

It is clear to see who is in the body or family of God because they are the ones who shine. They are the ones who boast about it and are clamorously foolish in their celebration of God. When the psalmist added the Selah (probably a musical interlude) maybe he wanted the reader to ponder whether or not they were in the family. If those who dwell in God’s house are continually praising where do the folks live who are not?

Scripture references:

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 26:8

Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where your glory dwells.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 36:8

They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your pleasures.

Psalm 65:4

Blessed is the man you choose, and cause to approach you, that he may dwell in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, of your holy temple.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hebrews 3:6

...but Christ as a Son over his own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

1 Peter 2:5

...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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