

A The courts of Zion (Psalm 84).

- ❖ Who comes to the courts of Zion?
 - Psalm 84:1-2, 10. Those who ardently long for it
 - Psalm 84:3. Small and great, lofty and humble
- ❖ Who is happy there?
 - Psalm 84:4. Those who work in the work of God
 - Psalm 84:5, 12. Those who trust in God and want to follow him
- ❖ How do those who go there act?
 - Psalm 84:6. They turn sorrow into blessing
 - Psalm 84:7. They grow every day in power
- ❖ Since no human being can physically be in the courts of Zion (God's abode in Heaven), the Lord has given us prayer as the means to speak with Him and make our requests (Psalm 84:8-9).
- ❖ God answers our prayers and is for us “sun” – from whose rays he radiates blessing – and a protective shield (Psalm 84:11).

B The peace of Zion (Psalm 122).

- ❖ Psalm 122 belongs to a group of psalms called “gradual,” “ascension,” or “pilgrim” psalms. They were sung as groups of pilgrims went to Jerusalem to celebrate the annual festivals.
- ❖ As they ascended Mount Zion, the pilgrims burst into joyful praise: “Jerusalem, we are now within your gates!” (Ps. 122:2).
- ❖ As they go up to Zion, everyone praises God (Ps. 122:4). It was also the time to resolve judicial problems and find justice (Ps. 122:5).
- ❖ But what stands out most in Psalm 122 is the prayer for peace:
 - Peace to prosper (Ps. 122:6)
 - Peace to have rest (Ps. 122:7)
 - Peace to live in harmony (Ps. 122:8)
- ❖ Those who rejoice in meeting God will seek the good of their church (Ps. 122:9).

C Those born in Zion (Psalm 87).

- ❖ Psalm 87:1-3. Zion surpasses all mountains. After the Temple was built, Zion encompassed Mount Moriah. No place could better teach the plan of Redemption. Therefore, “Glorious things have been said of you, City of God” (Ps. 87:3).
- ❖ Psalm 87:4-6. The sons and daughters of Zion. The salvation that emanates from Zion attracts people from all nations. All who accept this salvation will be recorded as born in Zion.
- ❖ Psalm 87:7. The source of all inspiration. Praise arises when thinking of Zion. Mount Zion is that stone that, made into a mountain, fills the earth (Dan. 2:44-45). On that mountain we who are born on it will dwell forever (Rev. 14:1).

D The Refuge of Zion (Psalm 46).

- ❖ Faced with the problems that may arise around us, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1).
- ❖ Those who do not know God act impetuously causing calamities, disasters, and wars (Ps. 46:2-3, 6). But God has the ability to stop these wars, and to act in the face of calamity and disasters (Ps. 46:9).
- ❖ Just as the verses that tell us about God's protection are scattered throughout Psalm 46, God lets his protective power show here and there (Ps. 46:5, 7-8, 11).
- ❖ However, we must still wait for the definitive moment, when God will be “exalted among the nations; exalted [...] in the earth” (Ps. 46:10b).
- ❖ Meanwhile, we are given the assurance that God, from his sanctuary, gives us life (Ps. 46:4), and asks us to wait patiently, maintaining our communion with Him: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10a).

E The immovable mountain of Zion (Psalm 125).

- ❖ The chiasmus of Psalm 125 shows us a great teaching:
 - Psalm 125:1. Those who trust in God are immovable
 - Psalm 125:2. God is always doing good to his people
 - **Psalm 125:3. Evil will not always reign, let us not stop trusting**
 - Psalm 125:4. God is always doing good to his people
 - Psalm 125:5. If we stop trusting, we will be destroyed
- ❖ There are times when it may seem better to let ourselves be overcome by sin, but let us continue to trust. God has something wonderful in store for us. “Peace be upon Israel” (Ps. 125:5).