

Psalm 84 or 84:1-6ⁱⁱⁱ

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

[LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!]

iii About Psalm 84 or 84:1-6

This psalm combines elements of hymn (vv. 1, 10-11), lamentation and intercession (vv. 8-9). It resembles the songs of Zion (found in Psalm 46, 48, 76 and 87) and the pilgrim Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-124). Likely composed on the occasion of a pilgrimage to the temple, the psalm express the strength of the psalmist's longing for the temple and the trials and rewards of the journey.