

**Wednesday Word Meditation Material (May 20, 2020)**

Order/Prayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Sharing → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 102 & 94 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 76:1~12
  
- ❖ **Meditation on Scripture**
  1. Asaph, the writer of this psalm, begins this psalm with the fact that God is well known to Judah (Israel and Israelites) as well as proven as the great Being (v.1). That God decided to dwell in “Salem” (Meaning: Peace) and “Zion”, the center of Israel (v.2). **Not Israel, but God decided that.**
  2. Likewise, God, dwelling in the center of Judah (Israel), is described as the One who keeps and sustains their lives in verses 3~10. First of all, God breaks “the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war” (v.3). That means that God stops all the war. After war, His returning would be depicted as glorious and more majestic (v.4). “The stouthearted,” i.e., brave men sank into sleep (died) after losing all to God, and “the men of war” could not use their hands (v.5). God of Jacob, representing the special God to Israel, rebukes rider and horses so they became stunned (dead) (v.6). Here we can see the powerfulness of God. Then, Asaph confesses his own faith in God by calling Him “Lord” and by expressing Him as fearful One so when He is angry, none can stand before Him (v.7). Continually, Asaph expresses God, who dwells in Judah and Israel, as the Judge who sentences from heaven to the earth in order to save all the humble (the people of God, here Israel) (vv. 8~9). God’s dwelling with His people, Israel, is to be the foundation of God’s protection of Israel out of the hands of Israel’s enemies both who hate the people of God and that make them difficult (v.10).
  3. For these reasons, Israel should make the vows to God and perform them (v.11). **The vows here mean the natural way of the people of God. Because God is with them and protects them, the people of God should live like His possession in their lives.** Also, Asaph extends the change of life to the people around Israel by mentioning “let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared” (v.11). All the creatures should express their awe to the Creator in other words.
  4. God’s protection brings “peace” so, God’s dwelling place, Judah (Israel), was called “Salem” in verse 1. At the same time, Zion is the place where God’s ruling exists. **Therefore, Zion-Salem means the place where God rules so the peace exists.**
  
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. We are going through various difficulties, loneliness, sickness, exhaustedness, frustration, and distress due to COVID-19. This is the time when we are thirsty for real peace. At this moment, please remember that fact that we became “Zion-Salem” in Jesus Christ by God’s grace. In this text, that was expressed as the fact that we are not the reason for “Zion-Salem” but God’s dwelling with us is the reason.
  2. In this designated time, why don’t we pray together for the “Zion” full of peace (Salem), like the name of our church?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.