

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (June 17, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 144 & 519 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 42:1~11
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*Where Is God?!*)
 1. According to Numbers 16, Korah, in the wilderness after Exodus, challenged and disregarded the authority of Moses and God punished him and his whole family. What his descendants wrote this psalm and 11 more psalms were written by them in God's inspiration is amazing. In their steps of life as God's people, they met the difficulties and their sound response to them are written in this psalm.
 2. Their response to the difficult situations is expressed as "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God"(v.1). This expression shows the urgency. In verse 2, the urgency is described in relationship with the interrogative adverb, "when": "When shall I come and appear before God?" The reason why they seek God in this urgent way is like: "they say to me all the day long, 'Where is your God?'" The poetic expression, "My tears have been my food" and the emphasis with the double use of "day and night" and "all day long" in verse 3, show us that the cynical question leads them dismayed and unending in the Korahites' lives. The cynical question is asked by those whom the Korahites led to God so they poured out their soul in verse 4. We can see that the betrayal moment of those, who once pretended to believe in God but now turned around, is realized in the eyes of the Korahites. In verses 9~10, this betrayal moment is repeatedly mentioned and the frustration in the Korahites' heart is revealed.
 3. In that situation, the psalmist writes the encouraging Word in verse 5 and 11: "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation." He confirms his answer to the cynical question, "where is your God?" with the redundancy. In verses 6~8, the Korahites affirm their answer by confessing that God, in their history, played a gracious role as the Shepherd of their lives throughout the wilderness. In verse 6, "therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar," he indicates the three places, land of Jordan, land of Hermon, Mount Mizar as the places for his reminiscence. At the same time, these three places are the reminders of their sin before God, the punishment of God against them, and God's gracious forgiveness as well as embrace of them. The peaceful confession of God, depicting God as the Forgiver of his sin and Merciful Shepherd of his life, is floating in this psalm against the cynical question, "where is your God?" which is asked by those who think that they are great.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. COVID-19 and the protest related to the racism and the weight and anxiety which are felt in our life context are used to generating question, "where is your God?" Do we have places like "the land of Jordan, the land and of Hermon, and the Mount Mizar" where and when we found the grace of God in our life? Why don't we share them together?
 2. With that precious memory of the places where and when God's grace was abundantly poured, we are supposed to confess that by God's grace, we, the weak, were saved and became God's people and live as His people nowadays. Then, we are supposed to hand over all our current life issues to God's hands. Aren't we? Let us pray together!
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.