

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (July 8, 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 213 & 455 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 48:1~14

- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*Ships of Tarshish*)**
 1. This psalm was written by the children of Korah who was inspired by God. It is about that fact that God deserves praise and the reason for the praise, which is God's salvation.
 2. The following verses tell us that the Zion where God dwells in is the beautiful in the world(v.2) and God testifies that God became refuges in various places in the world(v.3). When God reveals His identity as refuge of His people, the kings in the world feared Him and fled from Him(vv.4~5). The place where God reveals His identity as the refuge is a painful and anguish place as of women in labor and the place where God shatters the ships of Tarshish with the east wind(vv.6~7). Then, the powerful protector, God, is with and protects His people so that they can be firm forever(v.8).
 3. Verses 9~14 deal with the past events in order to support the argument about the redemptive work of God in verses 1~8. First of all, the psalmist, remembers the steadfast love of God in the midst of God's temple where he worship God(v.9). The steadfast love is realized by the work of righteousness by God's right hand(v.10). That seems a judge who justifies the wrongdoings on which the people of God, the daughters of Judah and Zion, rejoice(v.11). The well-ordered place where God rules, Zion, is to be shared with the offspring of Israel so that they could keep rely on God for their lives(vv.12~13). The writer, with faith, shares the fact that the God of salvation shown in the Israeli history will guide His people to the eternity with the readers like us(v.14).
 4. "Ships of Tarshish" in verse 7 above symbolizes the difficulties that the people of God is experiencing in the world. The immense of the pain would be compared to the pain of women in labor(v.6). The ship symbolizes a very powerful structure in the world and the composition of human knowledge and ability. When this psalm was written, the ship of Tarshish means the large galley of Phoenicia which was sailing in the Mediterranean sea. The Bible tells that God shatters the galley with east wind. The east wind is a tempestuous wind, similar to "Euroclydon" in Acts 27:14, where apostle Paul, taken to Rome by sailing in the Mediterranean sea, met the wind and shipwrecked. Such a strong ship, the ship of Tarshish, is meaningless before the east wind. Any kind of power in the world and manmade and man-achieved works are nothing before God.

- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. COVID-19, the long bored pandemic, and the social chaos, and our life matters stand before us a the ship of Tarshish, which brings pain of labor. Let's think any kind of things like this and share them together!
 2. As the "east wind," so Jesus' cross and resurrection shatters the everlasting death(hell), which is the most fearful matter in human beings. Why don't we have moment to praise God once again and rely on Jesus Christ with prayer for our current life maters? Also let's consider our life for the glory to God who eternally save our life in Christ!

- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.