

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

GOD HIMSELF IS PRESENT

Hebrews 2:12-13 “So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” And again, “I will put my trust in Him.” And again He says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

Yesterday’s devotion focused upon Jesus bringing true believers in Him to glory. Today’s two verses continue to focus upon those who Jesus brings to glory stating, “Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. . . Here am I, and the children God has given me.” These verses are drawn from the words of David in Psalm 22:22ff.

Psalm 22:22, quoted in today’s devotional verses, is a prayer by David for Yahweh to remain close to him, to quickly come to help and deliver him from his enemies. He is pleading with Yahweh to save him. The very next verse of this Psalm finds David’s enemy gone. He is alive, unharmed, and triumphant. Verse 22 found him afraid and verse 23 rejoicing. In verse 22 he had no future and in verse 23 his future is endless.

How did such a dramatic change happen in so short a time? Dr. Timothy Saleska, in his commentary on this Psalm answers, “. . . because God was present in the temple. It was the holiest place on earth, and so pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem were going up to the presence of God. The temple . . . was not just a fancy building, but a place where the earthly and the eternal were united.” In the sanctuary, the Temple, David found salvation.

The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 10:25 writes, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” In these inspired words of the Holy Spirit, you are encouraged to go to the sanctuary, to God’s house (the Temple), to bring your fears and anxieties, your concerns over your enemies and all else that is troubling you. Bring them to God at His altar, leave them there knowing ultimately He will make and keep you alive, unharmed, and triumphant.

Prayer: Lord God, be with me now and always for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple;
All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest reverence.
He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding. "Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.

Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshipping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.
(LSB 907)