



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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22 August 2021

Psalm 84 (NIV)

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!
- ² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
- ⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.
- ⁸ Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.
- ⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.
- ¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house
of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favour and honour;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
- ¹² LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.



1 Kings 22-40

("This is the prayer of Solomon at the opening of the temple in Jerusalem.")

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

- ²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven ²³ and said:
"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.
- ²⁴ You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today.
- ²⁵ "Now LORD, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.'
- ²⁶ And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.
- ²⁷ "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!
- ²⁸ Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.
- ²⁹ May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.
- ³⁰ Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 41-43

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. ~ Maya Angelou

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Ross, whose collarbone is still painful.
- We pray for those in lockdown in nursing homes - especially Patrick Johnston, Noreen Dobbie, Phyll Bylund and Judy Nowland.
- We give thanks that business and government are considering the Australian production of Pfizer-type vaccines in the future.
- We pray for the people of Afghanistan.
- We pray for wisdom for our politicians.



Ephesians 6:10-20 (NIV)

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

28 August ~ Anna Davidson
 30 August ~ Denby Budden
 31 August ~ Fiona Hansford
 31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns



Meg's Musings + Ephesians 6:10-20:

I am sure that we have all felt upset at the sight of so much chaos and pain in Afghanistan over the past week. We can only feel empathy for it's' people, and pray for them.

But this war was never going to end well.

George W Bush, and the other leaders at the time failed to pay attention to the history books. No invader has won in Afghanistan.

The invasion plan was to seek out Osama Bin Laden. However, focus was lost. Perhaps no one was sure what they were doing there - not the army, not the politicians or the strategists.... especially after Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011.

In 2003 Iraq was invaded. Resources, and attention, were diverted away from Afghanistan. Momentum was lost.

The NATO Alliance worked with a group of warlords, whose aims weren't always the same. The situation lacked consistency.

There seems to have been little accountability. Trillions of dollars have disappeared, with little to show for them. It seems strange, but even today the Bible provides a template which could have helped avert this crisis.

The Jews were anchored in history. They continually referred to God as "the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob". They also looked to history, citing David as their greatest king.

The people of Israel were called on to follow a plan - to be "The people of God". It was a simple plan, but it worked extremely well when the people were obedient.

The focus was to be on God, who provided rules, and the leaders. God's plans were consistent, and the people knew where they were up to.

The Jewish people held themselves accountable to God. Paul spoke to the Ephesians in terms of waging war. He didn't want people to see themselves as defenseless against the difficulties which they faced.

Paul was in prison in Rome, so wasn't able to provide the support of being at Ephesus with them.

He wanted the people to see themselves as well-equipped, and able to take a stand against whatever life threw at them.

Paul's weapons of choice were truth, integrity, the gospel of peace, faith, the word of God, prayer and perseverance.

Probably none of us would feel comfortable relying on these tools against the capricious and ill-disciplined Tabliban.

However, we do know that these "weapons" help us in our day-to-day lives. They make it possible for us to face each new day, and each new situation.

Blessing from Meg

