

The background is a solid brown color. In the center, there is a faint, circular emblem. Inside this emblem, a gold cross is positioned at the top. Below the cross is a red heart with a dark, thorny outline, resembling a crown of thorns. At the bottom of the emblem is an open book with red covers and white pages. The text "Psalm 48" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the emblem. Below it, the text "God Delivers Zion" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Psalm 48

God Delivers Zion

Psalm 48

- Pss 46-48 are likely celebrations of the deliverance of Jerusalem under Hezekiah from the Assyrians under Sennacherib - cf. II Kings 18:9-19:37
- v2 - Praised for His deliverance at a time of certain destruction
- v3 – Geography and terms:
 - Jerusalem is over 800' above sea level and rests on one of the highest tablelands of the country (Soncino)
 - "The far north" - Mount Zion (Moriah - where Abraham offered Isaac) is on the northeast side of Jerusalem
 - Great King was a title borne by emperors in the Near East - Jerome Biblical Commentary – cf. Matt 5:35

Psalm 48

- v5 – cf. Is 10:8
- v8 - The east wind is often associated with destruction (Is 27:8, Jer 18:17, Job 27:21)
 - It is reminiscent of the east wind which parted the Red Sea during the Exodus (Ex 14:21)
 - Tarshish is usually identified with Tartessus in south-west Spain, famed as a port and its ships renowned as the largest of that age (Soncino), i.e., God destroys a seemingly overwhelming force.

Psalm 48

- v9 - That is, this deliverance was as astounding as many of the famous deliverances of the past - now they have seen something the likes of which they had only heard from history
 - "which God establishes forever" may be better translated as an exclamatory prayer, "God establish it forever" (Soncino)
- v10 - Meditating on the incredible thought that God loves us
- v11 - Perhaps wherever He is truly known as a loving God, He is praised
 - Perhaps a reference that other peoples will hear of this deliverance
- v12 - cf. Ps 97:8
 - Daughters of Zion may not refer to people but to the villages south of Jerusalem who were likewise imperiled and then rescued by Jerusalem's deliverance
 - Judgments, i.e., the judgment upon the enemy

Psalm 48

- v13 - Eze 40 describes 43 towers - seven in each of six gates plus the porch
 - This may be a reference to the Assyrians counting the towers - Is 33:18 - perhaps in mockery of its weakness or to assess how to attack
- v14 - Perhaps considering that they are undamaged despite the threat of a vicious and powerful assault
 - The reference to citadels may be a poetic reference to v.4
- v15 - "He" will be our guide" - He is emphatic - He and none other (Soncino)
 - The words translated "for ever" (al-muth) is problematic; it means literally "upon death". LXX reads it as one word (possibly from olamoth) meaning worlds or eternity. Some believe it is not part of the text but is a musical instruction such as al muth-labben in Ps 9 or alamothe in Ps 46 (part of this trilogy of psalms about deliverance from Assyria). It may be the musical direction heading of the next psalm (49)