A CAUSE ANALYSIS OF CHURCH MEMBERS IS COMFORTABLE OR UNCOMFORTABLE DWELLING IN GOD’S TABERNACLE BASED ON PSALM 84:1, 2 AND 4

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out the cause of church members is comfortable or uncomfortable dwelling in God’s tabernacle based on Psalm 84: 1, 2 and 4. Simply, this research consisted of six indicators: Definition of word “how amiable are thy tabernacles” (Psalm 84:1 KJV); “my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” (Psalm 84:2 KJV); “blessed are they that dwell in thy house” (Psalm 84:4 KJV); the cause of church members is comfortable dwelling in God’s tabernacle; the cause of church members is uncomfortable dwelling in God’s tabernacle.

This research is divided into two main parts such as theoretically and practically. The theory result is the definition of word “how amiable are thy tabernacles” (Psalm 84:1 KJV)” means that the king of David expressed the word because it has clear definition with Divine character in God’ tabernacle (agape) and has close relationship with the Creator; definition of word “my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” (Psalm 84:2 KJV), it can be understood by knowing the context in that chapter (the king of David was chased by Absalom to be killed). Someone, who is in dangerous and recognizing God as his refuge, will long a peaceful and solemn place that is close to God. Also, this statement has a meaning that a longing of someone to God will affect to him physically; the statement of “blessed are they that dwell in thy house” (Psalm 84:4 KJV) means the psalmist understands the true principles of worship in God’ tabernacle where actually the true happiness is not about how beautiful the building is but how God Himself is the true source of happiness. In the other words, the statement of “blessed” that the psalmist means is an internally happiness (as God’s blessed words in mount of blessing, Matthew 5:3-11). The cause of the church members is comfortable and uncomfortable dwelling in God’s tabernacle is because of these two factors, internally and externally. The internal factor is about the spiritual level of each church member personally and socially meanwhile the external factor is the worship preparation (prayers, sermons, praise and song, and other duties in worship) that will be implemented sometimes good and bad.

Keywords: Comfortable, Uncomfortable, God’s tabernacle

Introduction

Attending worship in the church is a very important aspect now a day. Going to church is not just a good advice; it is God's will for believers (2016). Hebrews 10:25 urges, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV).”

Recognizing the importance of coming to worship in the house of God, some literature states that went to the house of God is very important in a person's salvation. For example, Jan S. Maxwell and Char De Jonge (2009) opinion. Important to come to worship divided into 3 main aspects: (1) the Church as a place where people can meet with the salvation given by God to man in Jesus Christ; (2) also are institutions that deliver salvation from God to man; (3) and is a bridge between God and the world.
Further and deeper the discussion about worship in the house of God, Psalms express how wonderful it comes to worship in the house of God. That understanding the evident in the songs of Zion group is Psalm 84: 1, 2, and 4 “to the chief Musician upon Gittith. A Psalm for the sons of Korah. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts; My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God; Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah” (Psa. 84: 1, 2, and 4). However, although theoretically to church is very important within the community of believers that is associated with security matters, and although the book of Psalms express how wonderful Welcome to the House of God, in fact many Christians, especially Seventh-day Adventist Church, even though sympathizing writers, many church members are bored and not too excited to come to the church. Children, adolescents, and adults will have had experiences admit bored and not too enthusiastic to come to worship at Sabbath services and other acts of worship.

Due to this, the focus in this study is what is the meaning of the word: “How amiable are thy tabernacles” (Psalm 84: 1); “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” (Psalm 84: 2) “Blessed are they that dwell in thy house” (Psalm 84: 4); what causes church members excited to be in the House of God; What causes church members are not happy to be in the church?

The Understanding of Psalm 84: 1, 2 AND 4

Explaining the meaning of Psalm 84: 1, 2, and 4 are the words, how amiable are thy tabernacles” (1); “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” (2) “Blessed are they that dwell in thy house” (3). The writer will describe them one by one.

“How Amiable Are Thy Tabernacles” (Psalm 84:1 KJV)

Based on research conducted in the origin language, historical background and other sources, the authors found that the meaning of the phrase “How amiable are thy tabernacles” described in Psalm 84: 1 means:

1. based on word study: The word “amiable” found in Psalm 84: 1 is derived from the Hebrew word ידיד (yedīyd) (Tanach). Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Definitions (E-Sword software version 10.0.7. by Rick Meyers, copyright 2000-2011.) defines the word as: (1) one Beloved (loved one) in which the word is drawn to the masculine gender; (2) adjective meaning lovely (nice, lovely, nice).

2. Based on context: the author found that the word ידיד (yedīyd) is often used in cases: (1) Describe the blessing given by God to His beloved one (Deuteronomy 33:12); (2) also to the people or person who disappoint Him (Jeremiah 11:15). In short, the word can be used to explain the meaning of positively and negatively; (3) The word ידיד (yedīyd) is also used in the parable style (Isaiah 5: 1); (4) and is also used to describe a place that is very likable, the temple is also the promised land, the land of Canaan (Psalm 84: 1).

3. The word ידיד (yedīyd) used in the Hebrew bible is translated in the Septuagint (Greek bible) as a word ἀγαπητός (agapetos). According to Thayer’s Greek Definitions (-Sword software version 10.0.7. by Rick Meyers, copyright 2000-2011) that word means: beloved, esteemed, dear, favourite, worthy of love.

4. In this context, the word ἀγαπητός (agapetos) is used in some of the background story: (1) to describe Jesus as the beloved Son of God; (2) explained sinful man loved by God and also explained the love of the apostles (especially Paul) to his brothers.

By looking at the context of Psalm 84 (David being pursued by his son Absalom to be killed: 2 Samuel 15: 13-37), the author has a view that is consistent with the opinion of John Calvin. John Calvin (1845) wrote, “David sighed when he realized that he was not free to come to the house of the Lord when
the temple is a place of faith and piety a person grows. Some scholar assume that when David said, “How amiable are thy Tabernacles” it narrows down to a missed heaven. However, perception is not true, because it is do not pay attention to the real context, in which David fled from Jerusalem.

“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” (Psalm 84: 2)

Based on research, the authors conclude an understanding of Psalm 84: 2 with the phrase “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” is as follows:

1. The meaning of the word: the authors found that the word “longeth” used in Psalms 84: 3 is derived from the Hebrew word יושִׁבי בֵיתךְ עָלֵה יִהלָכָה (kâsaph): יושִׁבי בֵיתךְ עָלֵה יִהלָכָה. (nik-se-pâh we-gâm kâ-le-tâh na-pî le-hâs-rô-wî Yah-weh lib-bî ū-be-sâ-rî; yĕ-ran ne-nû, ’el ’êl-hây) Psa. 84:2. Hebrew Old Testament (Tanach). Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Definitions (E-Sword software version 10.0.7. by Rick Meyers, copyright 2000-2011) explained that the meaning of the word is, to long for; yearn for; long after. Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries (E-Sword software version 10.0.7. by Rick Meyers, copyright 2000-2011) add sense of the word as a pale and to fear.

2. Based on the context: the word יושִׁבי בֵיתךְ עָלֵה יִהלָכָה (kâsaph) is often used to describe (1) the desire of the Creator to His creatures which were in the dust (Job 14:14-15); (2) the attitude of the people of Israel were indifferent to call to conversion (Zep. 2:1); (3) The attitude of the wicked is like a lion that is eager to meet with parents and relatives also told the House of God (Gen. 31:30). In shortly, the use of the word יושִׁבי בֵיתךְ עָלֵה יִהלָכָה (kâsaph) in other books that can be used for positive as well as negative.

3. In the Septuagint the word יושִׁבי בֵיתךְ עָלֵה יִהלָכָה (kâsaph) translated as εὐποθεῖα (epipothei): εὐποθεῖα καὶ ἔκλεισεν ἤ πυρήνη μου εἰς τὰς σκλας τοῦ κυρίου, ἢ καρδιά μου καὶ ἢ σάρξ μου ἡ γαλλιασάντο ἐξι θεόν ζωντα (epipothei kai ekleipei he psuche mou eis tas aulas tou kuriou, he kardia mou kai he sarx mou hegalliasanto epi theon zonta) (Psa. 84:2). The words come from the root word ποθέω (potheo) and according to Thayer’s Greek Definitions (E-Sword software version 10.0.7. by Rick Meyers, copyright 2000-2011) sense of the word has a meaning, to long for, to desire, to pursue with love, to long after, to lust, harbor forbidden desire.

4. In this context, the authors found that the word εὐποθεῖα (epipothei) is often used in the background of a different story. (1) describes a longing for fellow human beings (2 Cor. 9:14); (2) and the desire of God to man. Simply put, the meaning of Psalm 84: 3 with the phrase “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD” is commensurate with the opinion of Ellicott’s Commentary and Bernas Commentary (2016) say, the word Longeth, derived from the basic meaning is “grow pale,” expresses one of the effects: very strong emotions that resulted in growing to fear. In other word, the meaning of word “longeth” confer impact to physical.

Blessed are those who dwell in the house of thy (Psalm 84: 4)

As for the conclusion of the phrase “Blessed are those who dwell in the house of thy” is as follows:

1. The research: the word "blessed" in Psalms 84: 5 in the original language is אֱשֶׁר (’asher): אֱשֶׁר. (’asher) ve-hal-liḵ kâ se-lâh) Psa 84:5. Hebrew Old Testament (Tanach). Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Definitions (E-Sword software, 2000-2011) explained that the meaning of the word is, happiness, blessedness. The word is often used in the interjection and fixed on masculine noun. Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries (E-Sword software, 2000-2011) add sense of the word “blessed” are often drawn to masculine plural and the use of exclamation, “how Happy!”

2. In the context of the Old Testament, the authors found that the word אֱשֶׁר (’asher) is often used in the background of the story: greeting happy spiritually, that is upon them that his offense is forgiven; refuge under the shadow of his wings; living in the house of God; and the faithful walk with God. In short use of the word אֱשֶׁר (’asher) are often drawn to the happiness that comes from God.
3. The word אָשֶׁר ('asher) derived from the Hebrew, the Septuagint translates as “μακάριοι” (makarioi): μακάριοι οἱ κατοικοῦντες ἐν τῷ οίκῳ σου, εἰς τοὺς αἰώνιας τῶν αἰώνων αἰνέσουσιν σε. διὰ θυμάμα (makarioi hoi katoikountes en to oiko sou, eis tous aiones ton aionon ainesousin) Psa. 84:4. Greek Old Testament (Septuaginta). The word is derived from the word “μακάριος” (makarios) which means supremely blest.

4. In the New Testament, the word μακάριοι (makarioi) is often used in some of the background story: (1) emphasize the happiness received by a person accepts Jesus Christ and salvation; (2) clarifying the happiness that someone received as a spiritual not a physical (Mat. 5:3-11).

Based on research, the author conclude that the meaning of the phrases “blessed are those who dwell in the house of thy” mean: someone can feel the and receive happiness in the house of the LORD when the relationship between man and God are close. This comprehension is together with Eerdmans Commentary (2003) which said, the word blessed in Psalm 84:4 had been wrote to times, first in verses 4 and the second one in verses 5. The verses 4 directed to whom have a close relationship with God, and verses 5 directed to whom believe in Him.

**The Cause of Church Members Is Comfortable Dwelling in God’s Tabernacle**

There are several causes members love to come to the house of the Lord, is as follows:

1. A Spirituality
   a. A knowledge of God: Gaiser (2016) believes that, the reason the psalmist says, “Blessed is the man who lived in the house of the Lord” that caused it to know that God is the shield and the sun warms them and who give mercy to every human being.
   b. Humility and trust: White (2016) writes, “for the soul of humility and trust, the house of God in this world to be the gate of heaven.”
   c. Personal repented: Jacob (2006) said that someone who repent will feel pleasure in obedience, finding beauty in worship, find a special feeling when believers, and find enjoyment in the face of God.
   d. Good spiritual education in the household: White wrote (2001), “When we have good religion in the household surely we can have a good religion in our church.

2. The form of worship that is well prepared
   a. Motive worship event: Jenson (1981) wrote an enthusiastic devotion will affect the quantitative growth of the church. Churches that offer true worship would attract people, and the first experience when someone comes into the worship will determine whether a person will come again or not.
   b. The involvement of members in worship: Ray (2009) wrote, I prefer to worship in smaller churches because everyone can participate actively. The chapel increase his worship when it involves as many people willing to get involved.
   c. Sermons and church services were well prepared: In Tabloid Reformata 148 Edition February 2012 Sihombing told that, ”my wife happy going to church Tiberias because of the good sermon from the pastor Gilbert. In addition there is a nice program created by Mr. Gilbert, namely to Jerusalem and my wife take participation.

3. Nature of the Church Family
   a. Getting an honest community: Corey (2004) state, people tired of daily routine and want to find an honest relationship, a close and loyal and the only answer to this problem is the church.
   b. Help each other and encourage habits: Leigh (2001) wrote, ”The Church should result in growth for building up one another and encourage each other. In short, the reason for the existence of the church is twofold: evangelization as the church spread, when the construction of the church gathered.

**The Cause of Church Members Is Uncomfortable Dwelling in God’s Tabernacle**
In explaining the cause of members are not happy going to the temple, the authors conclude that there are some main causes:

1. Spiritual Issues
   a. Personally: Husyn (2006) thought, Someone who repent will feel pleasure in obedience, discover the beauty in worship, find a special feeling when believers, and find enjoyment in the face of God.
   b. Spiritual education is lacking in the household: White (2016) say, "When we have faith in the good housekeeping, surely we will have also a good religious congregations. Hold the fort households "through this excerpt, the authors understand that the cause of church members happy or not happy to come to the house of the Lord, has a very close relationship with the effect of education of the household.
   c. Problems motive in worship: Brown (E-Sword software, 2000-2011) wrote, sometimes we go to church because we enjoyed the style of a priest in preaching, we went for a varied approach to church programs, music that is played even luxury buildings can also make us much to Welcome to the house of the Lord. However, it is not all that major. I went to the temple because I realize how much God loves me, that's why I adore it.

2. The Form of Worship
   a. Sermons that are not well prepared: Riemer (2009) said that many Christians today feel troubled and confused in the church. There are people who tend to get bored because the sermons and their rituals are considered rigid and less enthusiastic. Thom and Joani Schultz added, most of them (the preachers) are very rigid and only a formality in the presentation and form of preaching, which I think these lessons will make people fall asleep.
   b. The show was not well prepared: Bellamy (2016) in a study of the causes of the members do not come to church, that he did in Australia (Australian Community Survey) with the number of respondents 8500 people write, 42% of the respondent answer why they did not come to church because of its ambiance worship tedious.
   c. Worship is not contextual: David Beer (E-Sword software, 2000-2011) said, the main reason why people do not want to go to the church is the lack of relevance. Lack of relevance can be seen from the order of worship less attractive.

3. Social Issues in the Church
   a. Lack of family properties in the church: Ray (2009) wrote, often in the absence of a big church family relationship is good, in terms of causing the least woke up feeling intimacy and relationship sharing it tends to be formality only.
   b. Unresolved conflicts: Franklin (1967) said, a conflict that was never resolved in the church also cause people to leave the church. The church will always be conflict, but a healthy and vibrant community is a community that practices a healthy way of life are attending, to find a way out of the conflict communities with the aim of maintaining good relations and remain intact.

CONCLUSION

1. The Interpretation of Psalm 84: 1, 2 and 4:
   a. how amiable are thy tabernacles (Psalm 82:1): mean, David revealed that word because of the background of Psalm 84 describes the relationship psalmist is very close to God that it is clearly understood that the house of God, there is "love" (agape) that exceeds everything. In simple, someone said the house of God is agape, of course he knows and understands the nature of the character of God.
   b. The definition of the word my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD (Psalm 84: 2): it can be understood by looking at the context of this psalm. David express
those words when he chased and want to be kill by his own son, Absalom. A person who is loyal and is in danger, aware that God is the only place depends, and the statement has meaning how much he missed the house of God where it gets quiet.

c. A person who longs to God, will have an impact on a person's physical.

d. The definition of the word "blessed are they that dwell in thy house (Psalm 84:4): mean, David understood that true happiness is not drawn to the beauty of the building of the Temple, the prayer was held, but it is God himself who is the source of true happiness. Happiness is not expressed physically but spiritually (internal). This understanding is based on the use of the word μακάριοι (makarioi) that Jesus Christ used in Mathew 5: 3-11.

2. The cause of church members is comfortable dwelling in God’s tabernacle
   a. The worship program is not contextual: David Beer said, the main reason why people do not want to go to the church is the lack of relevance. Lack of relevance can be seen from the order of worship less attractive.

3. Social Issues in the Church
   a. Lack of family properties in the church: David Ray wrote, often in the absence of a big church family relationship is good, in terms of causing the least woke up feeling intimacy and relationship sharing it tends to be formality only.
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