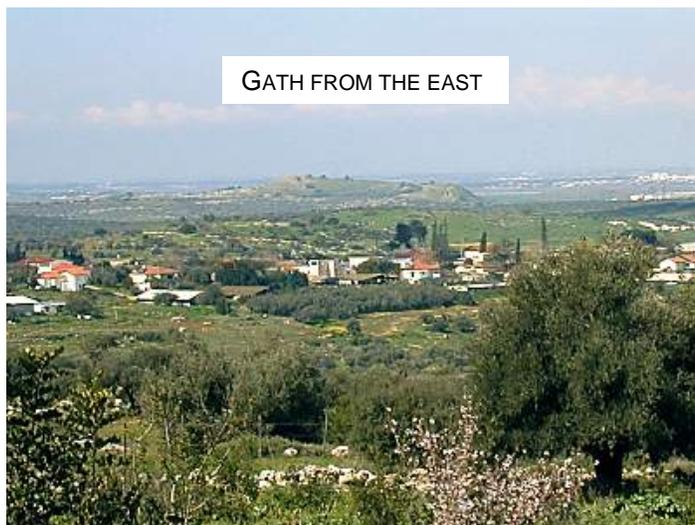


“TO THE CHIEF MUSICIAN UPON ‘GITTITH’

Psalm 8, 81 and 84

There are different opinions as to what the title ‘upon Gittith’ refers to but there can be no doubt when it is used three times as a superscription to the above Psalms that it has great significance.

It is felt to refer to ‘Gath’ a city of the Philistines located near Israelite territory at the end of the Elah Valley. David battled Goliath victoriously in the Elah Valley.



In **Psalm 8** the psalmist worships God, meditating on His power and glory in creation and then asks the question of why God would consider or visit poor disobedient and insignificant man. The Lord Jesus is intimated as the Only Worthy One as seen in **Hebrews 2:6-9**.

Just as David had defeated Goliath the Lord Jesus has defeated the devil and now claims the title of the Son of Man emphasizing His right as man to reign with authority.

“Gath” means “winepress” and brings to mind **Isaiah 63:1-4** where the Lord Jesus comes forth from Edom to battle. Perhaps the verse “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none

with me:...” also speaks of the cross where indeed the devil was defeated and the Lord Jesus as Man claimed the right to be the Administrator over all things in heaven and in earth. The superscription for the **9th Psalm** is “To the chief Musician upon Muth-labben”. This term means ‘death to the champion’ no doubt referring to Goliath (Satan).

In the end of the **80th Psalm** we have the following verses:

“Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon **the son of man whom thou hast made strong for thyself**. So will we not go back from thee. Revive us, and we will call upon thy name. Restore us, O Jehovah, God of hosts; cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved”. **Psa 80:17-19**

The godly remnant cries for vengeance and in the **81st Psalm** the Lord comes forth in delivering power for His own as the Sun of Righteousness. Verse 3 states “blow up the trumpet in the new moon” and no doubt refers to **Leviticus 23:23-25**, the feast of trumpets where the Lord brings about the national and spiritual revival of Israel. How suitable the superscription is in this context. The One who’s right it is to deliver, execute judgment is the One who went into death, as Man, and rose victoriously.

In **Psalm 84** we find the godly remnant longing for the earthly sanctuary, the place of divine glory. Their heart and flesh cry out for the Living God. If this is true of Israel how we should long for the ‘Father’s house’. In their prayer they say; “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For Jehovah Elohim is a sun and shield: Jehovah will give grace and glory; ...” **Psa 84:10, 11**

Thus the One who went to Gath and into the valley of Elah, the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the One who’s right it is to reign. Blessed be His Name!

Lord Jesus, come !
And take Thy people home
That all Thy flock so scattered here, LF 323
With Thee in glory may appear.
Lord Jesus, come !