

My Loved Ones:

If you notice, in your Bible, there is a title right underneath Psalm 46. God says in the Psalm 46 title, "To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamoth." These titles under many of the psalms are just as much inspired Scripture as the rest of the verses, because God chose to put these words in the original manuscripts of Hebrew Scripture. So, that means that we need to pay attention to what they say as well for our benefit and instruction.

"Chief Musician" comes from the Hebrew word "excel," but this is a person, so it's a superintendent or director of choir music. The NASB translates it "choir director" very accurately. Cutting to the chase, this term, which is mentioned over 55 times in the Bible refers to a leader of a group of voices to sing for God's praise & worship. These no doubt were psalms composed for special occasions and given to the choir director to lead. Ours is a day in which many are eliminating choirs, but God mentions them over 55 times. What point do we get from this? God wants music in His worship, and even choir music.

"Psalm" means that it was composed to be sung with instrumental accompaniment. God wants music with instrumental accompaniment. Praise the Lord and thank the Lord for the instrumentalists we have in our congregation. May the Lord raise up many more instrumentalists using their talents for the Lord.

"For [of] the Sons of Korah" are attributed to 12 psalms. Korah was a Levite who started a rebellion against Moses and Aaron in Num 26:10f; he and his followers paid dearly for rebellion against God's appointed leaders. But God's grace was so that Korah's sons and grandsons and their offspring formed two parts of ministry / service: 1) some cared for the tabernacle / temple by being doorkeepers or guardians (1 Ch 9:17f; Ps 84:10), while others became the singers and musicians in the choir founded under David by Heman, whose fellow Levites, Asaph and Ethan (or Jeduthun) directed the choirs (1 Ch 6:16f, 31, 33, 39, 44; 2 h 20:19). There's many lessons here. 1) Don't rebel against God appointed leaders. 2) No matter what your background, you can still be of great service to the Lord among His people. 3) Our musicians, singers and choir are very special ministries to appreciate.

"A song of Alamoth." A song was a piece of music that was well-known by everyone because of its popularity. Alamoth means "girls" and probably means that this psalm was sung by female voices in the choir without the men. A lesson here is that sometimes in God's worship of music, there are some songs that are used so much that everyone knows them well. Sometimes that can generate an attitude of "We sing this so much; let's sing something else." Don't begrudge the familiar. At the same time, the thought that there are some that are well-known, that means that there are others that are not as well know, and we learn them. Don't begrudge learning new things that praise the Lord. Amazing how these "Psalm titles" have meaning for us.

My loved ones, we pray for you regularly. May the Lord be with you in special ways.