Main Thought – In this individual (Hezekiah?) praise psalm, God is praised as our TOWER OF STRENGTH, RIVER OF JOY, and VICTORIOUS CONQUEROR.

INTRODUCTION – Martin Luther based his hymn "A Mighty Fortress" on this psalm. The Assyrian threat against Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-19) may have been the historical setting for this psalm.

OUR TOWER OF STRENGTH (1-3).
- In times of TROUBLE (John 16:33) we are refugees who run to God for REFUGE or asylum (61:3; 62:7-8; 142:5). In older times, it was a castle's KEEP or safe place in times of trouble.
- He is our STRENGTH in times of trouble (Isa. 40:31).
- Though the world around us crumbles and becomes "uncreated" (chaos), we do not FEAR (2 Kings 19:6-7; Isa. 8:12).

OUR RIVER OF GLADNESS (4-7).
- Unlike the major capitals of the ancient (Thebes [Nile] – Nah.3:8; Damascus [Abana] – 1 Kings 5:12; Nineveh [Tigris] – Nah. 2:6; Babylon [Euphrates] – 137:1) and modern world (London [Thames]; Paris [Seine]; Rome [Tiber]), Jerusalem had no river. It was situated on a mountain top (48:1-2 – Mt. Zion – 2500 ft. elev.) and relied on the spring of Gihon and Hezekiah’s Tunnel (2 Kings 20:20; 583 yds.).
- Even with no physical river in Jerusalem there is a spiritual river in the desert of life (Isa. 35:6) for the thirsty – fulfilled in Christ (John 7:37-39).
- In the past there were four rivers in the Garden of Eden. In the future, there will be two new rivers formed in Jerusalem at the second coming of Christ (Zech. 14:8) and the RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE in heaven (Rev. 22:1-2).
- With God in you through his Spirit, he will make you full of JOY (Gal. 5:22).
- God will HELP you at “break of day” when the enemy is most likely to attack. We are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37) just as God helped Hezekiah defeat the 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (2 Kings 19:35).

OUR VICTORIOUS CONQUEROR (8-11).
- In Hezekiah’s day, God miraculously saved Israel from the 185,000 man Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:32-36). This was all of God and not of man so that God alone would be glorified (2 Kings 19:19; 31b).
- When Jesus returns at his second coming, he will do the same. He will defeat all the nations arrayed against his people Israel and defeat them at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:14-16). He will usher in His millennial kingdom of peace (Isa. 2:4).
- He also demolishes spiritual strongholds in our lives (2 Cor. 10:3-4).
- In that day the Lord Almighty will receive all the credit and be exalted by all nations (Isa. 2:11; Rev. 11:15).