

Rhema Christian Center|
Tuesday, Wednesday Bible Study (March 26, 27, 2024)
GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES
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PSALM 132

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 132 is the 13th of the 15 Psalms of Ascent—a pilgrim psalm. According to Deut. 16:16, three times a year all abled-bodied Israeli men made their ascent up to Jerusalem to attend the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles, and to worship God in his temple. It was a time of spiritual elevation and drawing closer to God. As they traveled along the way, they sang, prayed, and meditated on the goodness of the Lord.

The journey was not always easy. There was rugged terrain, harsh weather and unsavory people that they encountered along the way, but they kept on until they reached their destination.

We too are pilgrims on the journey of life making our ascent to the spiritual promised land of Zion -- God's eternal dwelling place. This planet is not our home.

The writer of Hebrews 13:14 encourages believers to maintain their focus on the eternal realities of their faith, rather than becoming too attached to earthly concerns.

Our citizenship is in heaven. While believers live on earth, their true identity and citizenship belong to the kingdom of God. This indicates that their ultimate loyalty is to God and His kingdom, which transcends earthly boundaries and affiliations.

Today, we will look back in history at those who were making a physical pilgrimage to a physical structure (the temple) to glorify God.

The author of this Psalm is unknown. However, some think it might be Solomon, especially since it contains part of the prayer he prayed at the dedication of the temple when it was erected.

Psalm 132 is divided into three sections:

1. David's Promise to God (1-9)
2. God's Promise to David (10-12)
3. God's Promise to Us (13-18)

DAVID'S PROMISE TO GOD

The Psalm begins by talking about **David's hardships**. ***"... Lord, remember David and all his afflictions."***

We know that David had many hardships and afflictions.

- He lived many years as a fugitive, a wanted man.
- He was placed in many life-and-death struggles.
- He experienced a significant season of backsliding and suffered because of his own sin and scandal. (Bathsheba and Uriah)
- He faced many enemies in battle through many wars.
- He was openly criticized and despised by his wife. (Michal – Saul's daughter).
- He endured great conflict and problems among his own children.

However, some commentators believed that the difficulty David encountered in this text had to do with him moving the ark of covenant to Jerusalem. Therefore, the psalmist is asking the lord to remember David and all his hardships that he endured. In Hebrews 6:10, the scripture encourages the saints by saying that ***"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him. . ."*** God sees and knows all that we do and will reward us accordingly.

God did not forget David and His covenant promises he made to him and his descendants. Despite his flaws and mistakes, David was known for his willingness to humble himself before God and put aside his own desires for the greater good of his kingdom and people. David had a heart to please God and wanted a permanent home for the ark of the covenant.

In the next verse, David is making an oath to the Lord.

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² ***How he swore to the Lord, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: ³ "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵ Until I find a place for the Lord, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."***

These verses highlight David's readiness to sacrifice personal comfort and convenience in pursuit of honoring God and establishing His presence among the people of Israel.

David felt guilty that a tent represented God's dwelling place and expressed his concern to Nathan the prophet. He says to the Nathan in 2 Samuel 7:1-3, ***"Look, I am living in a palace made of cedar wood, but the Ark of God is in a tent! Nathan said to the king, go do what you really want to do, because the LORD is with you."***

Nathan had to later retract the statement after receiving further instruction from God. It was David's son and not David who was going to build the temple. Nathan's initial statement wasn't necessarily "out of turn." He was responding to David's sincere desire to honor God. This shows the importance of seeking God's guidance and being open to correction even when we believe we are acting in accordance with God's will.

God wanted a man of peace to construct the temple, not a man of war. The Lord's house was to be *"a house of prayer for all nations."* (Isaiah 56:7).

Now, David could have been disappointed and caught an attitude, but he did not. He accepted the will of God and invested in the next generation. He spent the remainder of his life preparing for the temple. He prepared Solomon to accept the charge to build a house for God, he purchased the land for the temple, established support for the project among the leadership of Israel, provided God's instructions and design for the building, and gave millions in gold, silver, and precious stones for the building project.

How would you react to God if He told you that He had chosen someone else to carry out the vision that was birthed in your spirit. Would you get an attitude, get jealous, or upset because someone else just might get the credit. **DON'T LET PRIDE GET IN YOUR WAY OR BLIND YOU. "Pride goes before a destruction. . ."** (Prov. 16:18).

IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE CHURCH IS ONE BODY, WORKING TOGETHER FOR ONE PURPOSE, AND THAT PURPOSE IS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

⁶ *Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of the woods.*

In this verse, **IT** is speaking about the Ark of the Covenant. The ark was only heard of in Ephrathah before it was brought to the fields of Jaar (another name of Kiriath-jearim), where David later found it and eventually brought it to Jerusalem.

WHAT WAS THE ARK? The ark served as a visible symbol of God's presence among the Israelites. It signified God's covenant relationship with his people and His guidance in their midst.

- The ark guided the children of Israel through their wilderness journey.
- When they reached the promised land, the ark rested in Shiloh.
- Eli, the priest, had two disobedient sons who dishonored the ark. They used it as a good luck charm in a battle with the Philistines.
- The Philistines captured the ark and took it into their territory.
- It remained in the house of Abinadab for 20 years.
- When David became king, he wanted the ark moved to Jerusalem and placed in the tabernacle, but guidelines for moving the ark were not followed and it ended in disaster.
- The ark rested three months in the home of Obed-Edom who was tremendously blessed.
- After consulting with God on how the ark was to be transported, David successfully moved the ark to Jerusalem.

⁷ *Let us go into His dwelling place; Let us worship at His footstool.*

⁸ *Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You, and the ark of Your strength.*

The psalmist was calling upon the people to gather in reverence and awe before God. In David's tabernacle, he appointed Levites and hired worshippers who praised God 24/7. This was their main occupation. People were encouraged to offer praises day and night.

Arise, O Lord is a poetic and reverent way of asking God to make His presence and to intervene in the affairs of humanity according to His will.

⁹ *Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness and let Your saints shout for joy.*

This is a prayer for God's blessing upon the priests who serve in His sanctuary. The psalmist asked that they be clothed with righteousness, symbolizing their purity and integrity in their service to God and His people. The saints sang and celebrated with joy. The word saints relate to God's covenant people. Who are God's covenant people? **YOU, THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SET APART.** They did and we are to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

This section begins with a reminder of God's promise of the Messiah. God excused David from his obligation to build a temple. Yet, God was so pleased with David's heart that He promised to build a house for David, a lasting dynasty over Israel. (2 Sam. 7:11).

¹⁰ **For Your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of your anointed.**

¹¹ **The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. ¹² If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore."**

GOD'S PROMISE OF an eternal dynasty to David was contingent upon David's sons and future generations remaining obedient to God's covenant and His teachings. If they uphold their end of the covenant by

following God's statutes, then God assures that David's lineage will continue to reign over Israel perpetually.

However, the dynasty was not based solely on David's sons. The ultimate fulfillment of the promise of an everlasting dynasty extends beyond David's immediate lineage to Jesus Christ. Biblical prophecies were usually twofold. This prophesy speaks of the current King at that time and the Messiah. Therefore, while David's sons played a role in the initial fulfillment of the promise, the ultimate fulfillment is in Jesus Christ. Gal. 5:4-5 says, when the ". . . **fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law. . .**"

Matthew 1:1 begins with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing His lineage back to David, affirming Jesus' connection to the Davidic line. It says, "**This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.**"

In Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, he declares that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to David: "**But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him an oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, He spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.**" (Acts 2:30-31).

God took the best of David's promises and petitions and made them even better. This psalm celebrates how the Lord gently sets aside the best and best-intentioned of human proposals, and replaces them with his own infinitely better purposes, resting on a sure oath, and confirmed by far better promises.

PROMISE TO US

¹³ **For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:** ¹⁴ **This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.**

The whole earth belongs to God, but Zion (another name for Jerusalem) is the place that the Lord desires. These scriptures suggest a special and enduring connection between God and the city of Jerusalem. He declares that Zion is His

resting place forever, indicating a perpetual presence and blessing upon the city. This is where God wants to live among his people.

¹⁵ I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. ¹⁶ I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

The Lord promises to abundantly bless and satisfy its poor with bread. This suggests not only physical provision but spiritual nourishment and well-being.

The priests are promised salvation, indicating divine favor and protection for those who serve God faithfully. The saints shall shout for joy declaring the message of salvation throughout the land because they are God's chosen generation.

We read in I Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;* ¹⁰ *who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

¹⁷ There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed. ¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon Himself His crown shall flourish."

The "horn" symbolizes strength and power, often associated with kingship and victory, and the lamp refers to the continuity of David's kingdom and the preservation of his descendants. Therefore, these verses convey the idea of God's blessing upon David's lineage, ensuring their strength and endurance despite any opposition they may face. It's a reflection of the covenant God made with David, promising that his dynasty would endure forever.

There are only two types of people in the world those who belong to God and those who do not. The people of God shall be clothed in righteousness and those who do not belong to God shall be clothed in shame.

HOW WILL YOU BE CLOTHED?

In summary, God dwelt with Israel symbolically through the ark in the temple. He dwelt among those physically who were present during the incarnation of Jesus

Christ. Today, He dwells among his people -- those who have been born again through His Holy Spirit.

- ***“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”*** I Cor. 6:19-20 NIV
- ***“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*** John 14:26

TAKEAWAYS – THEN & NOW

- 1. God's Presence and Dwelling Among His People:** Just as the psalmist expressed the desire for God to dwell in Zion, believers today seek God's presence in their lives. It reminds us that God desires to be close to us and that we should seek Him earnestly.
- 2. God's Faithfulness to His Promises:** The psalm reflects on God's covenant with David, promising an enduring dynasty. This speaks to God's faithfulness in keeping His promises. It encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness in our own lives, knowing that He will fulfill His promises to us as well.
- 3. The Importance of Worship and Reverence:** The psalm emphasizes the significance of worship and reverence toward God. Today, it reminds us of the importance of gathering together in worship, honoring God in our lives, and seeking Him with sincerity and devotion.
- 4. God's Provision and Blessings:** Just as God promised to bless Zion and provide for its people, we can trust in God's provision and blessings in our lives today. It encourages us to rely on God's provision and to be grateful for His blessings, both material and spiritual.
- 5. Unity and Peace:** The psalm speaks of the unity among God's people and the peace that comes from His presence. Today, it encourages believers to strive for unity within the body of Christ and let His peace abide among us.

SOURCES

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