

Psalm 122 – I Want to Worship the Lord with his People

Calvin, Delitzsch, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Gill, Geneva, Clarke, Handfuls, Trapp, JFB, Barnes, Alexander, INT, Henry, Eclectic, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Jews were only able to go to church the maximum of 3 times per year for Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of the Tabernacles. That was because the only place they could worship was where the Ark of the Testimony and the altar for sacrifice were. That was in Jerusalem. More, only men usually went to worship. As they walked together to Jerusalem they talked and sang together. Today you will hear of one of the Psalms they sang. In this song they sang 3 things about worship and those are our headings:

Worship – The pleasure

Worship – The place

Worship – The prayer

Our goals are: **That you will desire to worship the Lord who freed you from your sins on earth and promised to establish you forever in heaven.**

Worship – The pleasure

1 **I was glad** when **they said** to me, "Let **us go** into the **house of the LORD.**"

2 Our feet **have been standing** Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

1. David had pleasure in his soul when brothers called him to worship the Lord.

Psalms 84:10 For **a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

And notice that this was not a generic god; this was Yahweh, Covenant God. They were going to worship him.

2. David had pleasure because others wanted to go to the house of God to worship the Lord also.

3. David had pleasure because the house of God was a place of instruction, instruction in how to worship and live.

And even though at this time the temple was not yet built and David only had the tabernacle, he was looking forward to the temple. He knew God's promises to Abraham of a permanent meeting place, even from 1000 years before!

4. David had pleasure because there was safety standing in the house of God, a place of refuge.

It would have been of no use to admire God's house from a distance. The treacherous journey was over! God house was safe!

5. Lessons:

a. Worship with the church and meeting with a perfectly holy and loving, one true

God, brings deep joy, so you should long to meet with the Lord. Your sins have been removed. You are declared holy. Be happy! The world rejects what God says, so they don't want to meet him...but not you! In his presence you have fullness of joy.

b. The pleasure of worship requires some effort; you have to go the house of the Lord.

c. If you find that you are not having joy sometimes when you come to worship, remind yourself of what happened before and what the Lord has done for you.

Psalm 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Jesus gave you clean hand and a pure heart when he removed yours sins.

d. There are no private churches. You meet under the oversight of elders. Excitement in worship is not a substitute for true worship.

e. When you gather with the saints of God you get to spur each other to continue living for Jesus. You get encouragement even to go to God's house...for that is what "they said to me." Yes, **with God as your Father, you would want the church to be your mother!**

Worship – The place

3 **Jerusalem** is built As a city that is compact together,

1. Jerusalem was the place of worship where pleasure overflowed.

2. What do we know about Jerusalem? What is it about this place that made it so special?

Jerusalem was a compacted city. Before David captured Jerusalem, it consisted of the upper and lower city on a hill. But under David it was joined together as a solid and compacted place. It was well organized and visible from a distance. It was a strong city because of its location on a hill.

David intended to use that geographic and sociologically strong city to teach of the spiritual Jerusalem. At the heart of spiritual Jerusalem was the tabernacle. The tabernacle pictured the meeting place of Christ and his church, a place where the gap between God and man was removed through the sacrifices the priests offered.

Psalms 76:2 In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion.

4 Where the **tribes go up**, The **tribes of the LORD**, To the **Testimony of Israel**, To **give thanks** to the name of the LORD.

3. In Jerusalem the tribes would regularly go to worship the Lord.

Strangers did not go up to Jerusalem as they could not worship. No one who went there was perfect...but all those who loved the Lord went. Their hand and hearts were made clean, washed in his blood of the coming Christ so they could approach him.

4. In Jerusalem, in the tabernacle, in the Holiest Place, on the Ark of Testimony, God met with the priest on behalf of the people, and inside the Ark was the Testimony (Law) of God.

The priest would preach what God had revealed in his Word and the priest would make sacrifices to God for the people.

Exodus 26:33 "And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy. 34 "You shall put the **mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.**

You see why David has so much joy! **They were fed and they were cleaned in Jerusalem.**

5. In Jerusalem the people gave thanks (a phrase describing worship) for all God had done for their bodies and souls.

Psalms 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Notice the direction of worship...to Covenant God!

5 **For thrones are set there for judgment,** The thrones of the house of David.

6. In Jerusalem was established the spiritual head of the kingdom of God until Jesus came.

There in Jerusalem the **kings and priests were set to protect God's worship and keep it pure.**

7. Lessons:

a. You are the New Jerusalem. You are the church! You have clean hearts and hands. Your salvation is from heaven.

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven from God,** prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

You are not to go elsewhere for spiritual nourishment (滋养) and to speak with God.

Don't go "to the garden alone." Don't join private churches. Come to church! Meet with the saints and worship the Lord together. Don't join with other religions to worship; they are not worshipping Covenant God - Yahweh. **Come, have joy with the saints. Get cleaned. Get nourished.**

b. You are strong and compacted together as one. You are the stones that were founded on, joined to, and built on the Chief Cornerstone— Christ! (1Peter 2:5)

c. You are to bring more people to New Jerusalem to worship him. There were 12

gates for the church! Rev. 21.

Isaiah 56:7 Even them I will **bring to My holy mountain**, And **make them joyful** in My house of prayer... For My house shall be called a **house of prayer for all nations.**"

Isaiah 2:2 ...in the latter days That the **mountain of the LORD'S house** **Shall be established** on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And **all nations shall flow to it.**

Have your gates open for people to come in.

d. You are to excommunicate any one that threatens the unity of body and the work of Jesus Christ.

Worship – The prayer

6 **Pray** for the **peace of Jerusalem**: "May they **prosper** who love you.

1. David challenged those who were going to Jerusalem to pray for Jerusalem's peace.

Isaiah 62:6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. **You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,** 7 And give **Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.**

2. David was really praying there would not be any schisms as schisms would hinder the work of the Lord.

3. David then repeated the need to pray for peace, but using a different word "prosperity." **Some see "prosper" and assume David was praying for financial prosperity.** Nothing could be further from the truth. Consider what David meant.

a. First, "prosper" the parallel word, literally is better translate as "secure, tranquil, rest."

b. Second, Jewish poetry often repeats the same idea in slightly different words. So "peace" is synonymous with "prosper." This is why it is better translated as "rest." Other translations properly translate this word as rest, etc.

c. This was a pun, a play on words in this verse. Peace is "shalom," and prosperity is "shalaw."

4. David prayed, not for magical peace, but for faithful proclamation of truth so that men could be saved, sanctified and strengthened.

With men are saved, sanctified, and strengthened, peace prevails. When the Gospel is proclaimed people will have spiritual light, and zeal for truth will increase, inward strength

renewed, communion enjoyed, and there will be much fruitful work.

7 Peace be within your walls, **Prosperity within your palaces.**"

5. David prayed for peace so that there would be justice in the courts.

Again, the better translation is "secure, tranquil, or rest."

8 For the sake of my **brethren and companions**, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

6. David prayed for peace among his brethren knowing that that was good for them.

He knew this would bring glory to God and good to his people. He surely was not a selfish man!

We know David not only prayed but he did much for the church!

1 Chronicles 29:3 "Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I **have prepared for the holy house**, my own special treasure of gold and silver: spiritual light and zeal for truth are increased, inward strength is renewed, communion with God is enjoyed, and they are fruitful in every good work.

Notice how David, the king, viewed all men as his brothers. They had one Lord, one Gospel, one faith, one Savior, and in the one church. They were united in one worship. No wonder they could share the same joys and support each other in their pains.

9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will **seek your good.**

7. David prayed for God to receive glory through worship and so bring blessing on the people (their good).

It wasn't because he wanted to preserve his kingdom. It wasn't because he wanted to be loved by his citizens. It wasn't because his citizens were the best in the world.

Psalms 69:9 Because **zeal for Your house has eaten me up...**

David sacrificed things he loved. He therefore invested prayer, money, and time. He saved up and prepared for the temple. That was most essential for the glory of God and the good of the people.

8. Lessons:

a. Prayer is your priestly work; you are priests before God. So **do your work**, but **pray for it to be done.**

b. Put a priority of prayer on the church of Jesus...both here and abroad...for the persecuted and struggling churches! Maybe you can't preach, but you can pray. Maybe you don't have money to help others, but you can pray. Pray that the Lord will be alive in his church and speak to her every Sunday!

c. How do you seek others' good? Pray for them. Lead them to Christ. Bring them to

worship. Nothing is more valuable.

Conclusion:

What great joy the Christian has, that joy that is expressed, enjoyed, and **built on in the worship of the saints** in Jerusalem. But that **joy in Jerusalem came through prayer.** And no one could pray unless he is touched and saved by the Lord.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Your heart and your hands are clean because they have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. He fully paid for your sins. Take pleasure in this fact.

2. You are now joined to the church of Jesus Christ...it is recorded here at New Horizon and in heaven!

3. Pray and work for the church to grow...expand...become stronger...so blessings will come to you and the Lord Jesus will be glorified.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, it is wonderful you are here, but you can't really pray to and worship God unless you are God's child. You can only be God's child if your sins are paid for. Only Jesus paid for the sin of others!