

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

A PLACE OF GRACE

PSALMS 132

Text:

Introduction:

Throughout the centuries, God's house has always been a special gathering place for believers.

For Old Testament saints, the tabernacle and temple were the places where God's glory was put on display.

It was there that God's Word to his people was kept in the Ark of the Covenant.

What makes God's house so special is not the building or the architectural style or the materials.

What truly counts is the spiritual reality of what happens inside that place—the purity of the pulpit, the motive of the ministries, and the sincerity of the hearts.

This is what makes God's house a true place of worship.

God's house should be that place wherever his truth is openly declared, his glory is clearly revealed, and his Son is publically magnified.

This is the focus of Psalm 132, a royal psalm that describes the special blessing that accompanied God's house, probably when the Ark of the Covenant was brought there by David.

This psalm was written to describe the momentous occasion when the ark was brought to Jerusalem and placed into the tabernacle.

As long as it was located there, Israel prospered and knew God's success.

This psalm is a prayer of the congregation, requesting that the Lord remember David's vow concerning the dwelling place for the ark.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. A REGARD FOR GOD'S GLORY (VS. 1-5)

Psalm 132:1-5

¹ LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: ² How he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; ³ Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, ⁵ Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

This psalm begins with an appeal that God would remember the promises He had made to David regarding the establishment of his house and throne.

2 Samuel 7:10-14

¹⁰ Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, ¹¹ And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. ¹² And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will

chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

2 Samuel 7:16

¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

They also ask God to remember the difficulties and hardships they have suffered in regard to these promises made to David.

In verses 2-5 David made a vow to the Lord not to rest until he found a place for the Lord.

This pictures David regard and passion to build the temple – a request denied by God.

David, instead provided the materials for God's house which would be built by his son Solomon.

This psalm speaks of the promises of God to David as a time when they seemed forgotten.

Application:

Understand we can gain strength form the promises of God in times of difficulty and hardship.

Note not only the Regard for God's Glory but also:

2. A REACHING FOR GOD'S GLORY (VS. 6-9)

Psalm 132:6-9

⁶ Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood. ⁷ We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool. ⁸ Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength. ⁹ Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

The people recalled how David's regarded and his passion for God's glory pushed him to action.

He and his men had heard where the Ark of the Covenant was.

It was found in the fields of woods when David moved it to Zion. (2 Samuel 6).

The people purpose to worship where David had earlier when he rallied the people to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

In this prayer the people wanted God to visit them again (vs. 8)

Psalm 132:8

⁸ Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Application:

What we need today is for God to visit His people, and for His people to desire that visit.

The issue today is not whether God would visit His people – the issue is He is not welcome in most places.

They also pray that the priest would be clothed with righteousness, or personal holiness.

Psalm 132:9

⁹ Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

The spiritual leaders must be right with God if this work was to know God's support and would succeed.

We often speak against the removal of God out of society, and schools, but the real issue is that in many places God has been removed from the sanctuary.

Let's quickly consider lastly:

3. A REQUEST FOR GOD'S GLORY (VS. 10-12)

Psalm 132:10-12

¹⁰ For thy servant David's sake turn not away the face of thine anointed. ¹¹ The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. ¹² If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

They request that all who follow King David might enjoy the promises and covenant God made to him.

But there were conditions to the promises God made – they must keep the statutes of God Word.

Remember:

Obedience Escorts God's Blessings.

Close:

God's house is to be a place where Christ is magnified.

If God's Word is expounded there, the glory of God fills that house of worship.

If God's Son is magnified there, the grace of God is manifested in that place.

No matter how stunning or simple God's house is, if the Word of God and the Son of God are honored, that place becomes a wonderful house of worship.

What ultimately makes any church a special place is not its architecture but its adoration; not its size but its substance; not its entertainment of man but its exaltation of God.

May we forever be that type of place – where the truth is proclaimed and the Glory of God is guarded – where we find our satisfaction with the Saviour.