

Summer Psalms
BETTER BLESSINGS
Saturday, August 2
Reading: Psalm 131-132

Psalm 132:11 *The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath He will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne."*

As we continue looking at “the songs of ascents”, it is only natural that as they journeyed to Jerusalem for the feast days that the pilgrims would think of David and his desire to build the temple to honor God. Psalm 131-132 focus on the events recorded in 2 Samuel 6-7.

After the great victories God had given him, David shows his humility. He does not “concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me” (131:1). Instead, his concern is for the honor and glory of the Lord. Psalm 132:1-9 describe how David desired God to be with him, so he brought the Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem (see 2 Samuel 6-7). However, this was not enough for David: “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent” (2 Samuel 7:1-2). More than anything he wanted to build a magnificent temple worthy of the Lord. But because David was a man of war, God said he was not the man to build God’s House.

However, God gave David a promise greater than he could have ever asked for! God was going to build a “house” for David. Not only would his son build the temple to honor the Lord, but God was going to establish David’s throne forever. He would always have a descendent sitting on the throne in Jerusalem (see 2 Samuel 7:8-16). This so overwhelmed David, that he can only respond with “Who am I” that God would give him such great blessings - better blessings than he could imagine (2 Samuel 7:18-29).

The last part of Psalm 132 celebrates this promise to David. It repeats the words of the Lord (132:11-12) and then proclaims that Jerusalem “is My resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it” (132:13-14). God promises to provide for the needs and salvation of His people (132:15-16) and that He will “make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for My anointed one.” He will have a radiant crown while his enemies will be clothed in shame (132:17-18).

As the pilgrims sang these songs they were always under some form of foreign rule - Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. What had happened to God’s promise to David? Where was this eternal King from David’s line who would reign from Jerusalem? The answer, of course, is found in Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of God. He is the only One who can fulfill all the promises recorded in this psalm. When He returns, He will defeat all His enemies and will rule on David’s throne from Jerusalem. This is much more than David could have ever imagined or asked for.

When our desire is to humbly serve God and bring glory to His name, God can do more than we could ever dream through our lives as well. As the Apostle Paul wrote: “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us; to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21). So humbly seek the Lord’s glory and look for the better blessings He will provide.