

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE -

12.22.2024

PSALM 132 - A CHRISTMAS
MEDITATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Psalm 132:1-18

1 Remember, O Lord, in David's favor,

all the hardships he endured,

2 how he swore to the Lord

and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,

3 "I will not enter my house

or get into 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."

6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;

we found it in the fields of Jaar.

7 "Let us go to his dwelling place;

let us worship at his footstool!"

8 Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place,

you and the ark of your might.

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,

and let your saints shout for joy.

10 For the sake of your servant David,

do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath

from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body

I will set on your throne.

12 If your sons keep my covenant

and my testimonies that I shall teach them,

their sons also forever

shall sit on your throne.”

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.

15 I will abundantly bless her provisions;

I will satisfy her poor with bread.

16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation,

and her saints will shout for joy.

17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David;

I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

18 His enemies I will clothe with shame,

but on him his crown will shine.”

- This particular psalm has no author attributed to it and it was likely composed during or after the exile.
- The psalm is largely a prayer for the Messiah. It expresses the longings and yearnings of the people of God for the Savior.
- All of God’s promises to David and all of those promises this psalm expresses, have been fulfilled in Christ.
- Yet the fullness of this psalm awaits to the end of the age when Christ returns in all of his glory to consummate his kingdom.
- We as followers of Jesus, pray this psalm with our hopes fully on the promise that Christ will come again.

- The first part of the psalm is a prayer for God to remember David and his desire to build a dwelling place for the Lord.
- The second part of the psalm rehearses the Lord’s covenant promises to David that answers the prayer.

II. GOD'S PRESENCE RESTING IN A PLACE

- v1 Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured,

- The prayer offered by God's people is for the Lord to remember and act on his covenant promises to David.
- David's name is prominent in this psalm and the story of David occupies a significant place in the Scripture.
- One of David's greatest desires was to build for God a house, a place for the Lord to dwell among his people.
- It was his life's mission and it cost him a lot to do what he did. That cost is expressed in vv3-5.

- We know, and David also knew, that God's presence cannot be contained in a single place. (Psalm 139:7-9; 1 Kings 8:27)
- And yet, we see David and all of God's people fixated on a place, one specific place.
- From Moses until the coming of Christ, that time in redemptive history, God made his presence known to his people in a particular place.
- First in the tabernacle, then later in the temple in Jerusalem.

- Vv6-8 zooms in a bit further to express the presence of God in a particular place.
- Vv6 Behold, we have heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- What is the "it" they have heard of and found? It is the ark of the covenant.
- The ark that God commanded Moses to build, contained the law of God written by the finger of God on the two tablets.
- The ark of the covenant was the visible symbol of God's presence among his people.
- It represented God's presence, his holiness, and his power.
- It also represented God's mercy and grace as symbolized by the mercy seat.
- The ark finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- The law of God, written on the tablets, that was transgressed repeatedly, was obeyed perfectly by Christ.
- Every promise of God the ark of the covenant represented are "yes" and "amen" in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20)

- During the time of David's ascent to the throne, the ark was not in Jerusalem. (1 Samuel 6-7)
- In fact, Scripture chronicles the sad story of the ark being forgotten or neglected by God's people.
- For twenty years the ark of the Lord was in the fields of Jaar (a designation for Kiriath-Jearim.)
- David had not forgotten the ark—he remembered.
- David brought the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem because in the days of Saul they had forgotten to seek the Lord. (1 Chron 13)
- "We heard of it in Ephrathah" - that is an old name for Bethlehem. That is the town in which David was born. It is the town of David. The people in David's town heard about where the ark was.
- They found it and brought it to its rightful place in Jerusalem.
- V7 Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!"
- The people rejoice at the ark being brought to its final destination. They recognize the ark as the place of God's presence and worship.

- It's easy to see the connection here with the Christmas story.
- Christ the Savior, the one in whom the fullness of God dwells bodily, comes in his incarnation, and is born in Bethlehem.
- Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
- Luke's gospel recounts the events of Joseph taking Mary to his hometown, Bethlehem, which is called the city of David. And it was there

that she gave birth (Luke 1:1-7).

- Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
 - Jesus is the true ark of God! He is the true dwelling place of God.
 - John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - “Dwelt” is the word “tabernacled.” Jesus was the very place of the presence of God; the ark and the temple.
 - When the angel appears to Joseph in a dream to tell him not to fear but to take Mary as his wife as she is carrying the one who will save his people from their sins, we’re told this was in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy.
 - Matthew 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”
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- Vv8-10 is a prayer that echoes the prayer at the dedication of the temple of Solomon when the ark was brought there. It was the resting place, the permanent dwelling place of the ark.
 - During the exile, the ark was lost. For those in exile or returning from exile, this is a prayer for the restoration of the presence of God in the place that he had appointed, Zion/Jerusalem.
 - It is prayer for the restoration of a consecrated priesthood, “clothed in righteousness.” A restored priesthood would give access to God. If God answers that prayer, the saints will shout for joy.
 - V10 brings us back to the prayer of v1. “For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.”
 - “Your anointed one” means the anointed king, ultimately the Messiah.
 - They understood that any Davidic king would be heard on the grounds of their ancestor David’s devotion.
 - The prayers of God’s people to remember David and his anointed one are met with a corresponding promise.

III. GOD'S PROMISE REALIZED IN A PERSON

- Vv11-12 is a brief synopsis of the covenant God made with David.
- V11 the Lord swore “a sure oath.” God makes a monumental promise to David.
- The promise is that if David and his sons keep God’s covenant and obey what the Lord teaches them, they will never fail to have a son of David on the throne.
- In v2 David swears an oath to the Lord and makes a vow to build God a house.
- But the Lord reverses that. 2 Samuel 7, the Lord declares to David that he would make David a house.
- He will raise up an offspring of David, establish the throne of his kingdom forever, and that son will build a house for the name of the Lord.
- David has a son, Solomon, he comes after David and he expands the kingdom. He builds the most magnificent temple for God. His kingdom is greater and more glorious than David’s. But things go really downhill after Solomon.
- What happened to the promises to David?
- Did God’s promise to David fail?
- The people of God after the exile understood and associated the covenant God made with David to the prophecies of the coming Messiah.
- What of God’s promises? They are answered in vv13-18.
- This is where this psalm and the Christmas story intersects.
- God answers and he grounds his promises in his sovereign election of Zion and David and his love for his people.

- V13, For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling place; “This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”
 - Notice the repeated, “I will, I will, I will, I will...”
 - God will abundantly bless, provide for, and save his people. He will keep his promise.
 - And it all hangs on the fulfillment of vv17-18
 - All of the longing and yearning and expectation of the people of God for centuries comes down to God keeping his promises to David—which he has!
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- Two pictures are given of the greater Son of David.
 - The first picture is of a sprouting horn.
 - “I will make a horn to sprout for David...”
 - Horn is symbolic in Scripture of strength, power, and rulership.
 - God will raise up the promised son and he will be mighty, of his reign there will be no end.
 - The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Greater Son of David.
 - Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
 - Zechariah the priest, prophesied his arrival.
 - Luke 1:68-69 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
 - The angelic host proclaim Messiah’s arrival to the shepherds keeping watch at night.
 - Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
 - The second picture is of a lamp.
 - “I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.”
 - The image is of the lampstand in the tabernacle that was kept continually burning.
 - This symbolized the light of God that was continually there. He is the light and life of his people.
 - John 1:4-5, 9 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
 - Simeon identifies the baby Jesus with the anointed one being the lamp.
 - Luke 2:30-32 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”
 - Jesus, the Messiah, the Greater Son of David, will be the instrument of illumination and revelation to his people.
 - Jesus is the light of the world. (John 8:12)
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- Lastly, v18, “His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine.”
 - His enemies clothed with shame is contrasted with God’s priests who are clothed with righteousness and salvation.
 - However prosperous the wicked may be in this life, their end is already prescribed.
 - They will face the fiery fury and judgment of the very King they despised and rejected and whose people they oppressed and persecuted.
 - The horn from David, will see his enemies clothed in shame.
 - On that Day, the King won’t be wearing a crown of thorns, he will be wearing the shining crown of glory.

- But the fulfillment of this isn't in the Christmas story.
 - In Revelation 21, the full picture comes into complete focus—in the new Jerusalem.
 - Jesus is the temple, the place where God's presence rests.
 - There is no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.
 - Jesus is the person in whom God's promises are realized.
 - Jesus is the lamp, the city has no need of sun to shine on it for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
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- The Christmas story is the story of David's Greater Son who was coming into the world.
 - And in the baby Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was the final resting place of God's presence, he came to dwell with his people.
 - God did not come to dwell in a temple made by human hands, not in an ark containing the tablets of the law, but in the man Christ Jesus.
 - The person of Jesus is the only place you can go to for light and life and salvation.
 - We are pilgrims passing through this world, marching on our way to the heavenly city, Mt. Zion.
 - We sing and pray this psalm with greater revelation and passion because the true King, the Greater son of David has already come and he will come again, and he will reign forever and ever and ever.
 - Merry Christmas and Maranatha! "Come, Lord Jesus!"

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?