

PSALM 122 vs 1

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Psalms 120 – 134 formed a hymn book used by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for the 3 annual feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tents (temporary shelters). Traditionally it is thought, these Songs of Degrees were sung by devout pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem to keep the festivals of the Lord, we may suppose that companies toiling up this long ascent would relieve the tedium of the way by chanting the 15 psalms.



A Song of Ascents of David,

¹ I am glad when they say to me, Let us go to the house of the LORD / so it's an invitation. It isn't some critical legalist spouting, you

should go to church; some overfed, undisciplined disciple demanding another: Go!

Now days, most people would say: mind your own business! Yet, it is what Jesus said to each one He met on the dusty roads of history, when we read the word translated: **follow me**. But that's not His way. In truth, Jesus said: **Join Me**... in the way He was going; and the multitudes gladly did; it was inviting to them.

/ **Join me**; and is it a building that is in focus? Or a people? This word translated: **house**, was first used to describe the **household** of Noah entering the Ark. Luther writes: what a notable thing to come together where God is present with us, to hear His word, and call upon His holy name, and receive help in our time of need. That it is a house built of stone and timber to honor God; that it was adorned with gold and silver, and other precious ornaments; who cares? That it is the place the people hear the word of the Lord, and call upon His name; and find Him merciful, giving peace and remission of sins. Therein is the beauty.

And David is glad...

² Our feet stand within your gates, O Jerusalem / a name which denotes: the place of Peace; which is something that has not been true for a long time.

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together / a city that is joined together in unity; also something that is no longer true:

⁴ where the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD / the word is: **shebet**... suggesting: families who gather around a leader. Most translators want to remind us there were only 12 tribes, which is true, if this is about Jacob's kids; but if this is about Abraham's children... there are many more; and like Psalm 117 already said: Praise the Lord; all you nations: praise Him, all you people.

So let's go with what David was inspired to write,

to the personal statements of Israel / to the evidence; the witness; the legal proof of Israel; now days, the House of Judah along with the lazy church-world... like to co-opt this name to represent only the Jewish people; or only the church, which is often unwelcomed in Jerusalem now days. Problem is: the Jewish people are 2-parts of the original 12 tribes of the one whose name means: **the one ruled by God**.

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Not a problem for the House of Judah to value its heritage. Bravo! Encore! But we are not Jewish and yet have many Hebrew names in our families reaching back the Caucasus mountains, so until the other 10 tribes wake up and acknowledge their heritage... we should probably say,

where the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD; to the personal statement of any and all who are governed by GOD,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD / notice: the LORD is in focus. The psalmist is talking about... where the record of God's faithfulness to His people is retold; where they gather in gratitude to His mercy. He does not say: where victims should be sacrificed; or incense be offered; or heartless music chanted... by overstuffed prelates and screechy choirs dressed in weird vestments that on TV always look like the color of urine, that even the disciples of Jesus would never wear in a million years!

Simply...

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ For there, sits the throne set for judgment -- of the house of David / able to silence the serpent's mouth. And without further explanation: the prophet Isaiah clarifies the only throne of David that matters. Sadly in the last 2500 years, so many including the House of Judah still cannot discern who Isaiah was talking about. Today in Jerusalem they cannot explain: the Child who was born; the Son who was given; and the government that will be on His shoulders; and the One whose name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace... from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD will make it happen – Isaiah 9.

And here's a question for the orthodox Jewish and churchianity people: **aren't you a little late to build a temple?** Daniel said when Messiah would come; and He was rejected; the Chief cornerstone was a stumbling block to the religious hierarchy in Jerusalem; and was rejected by the builders then; and is still rejected by the same religious hardheads – who love their traditions more than the Word of God.

Isaiah said, **when Messiah comes, He will teach where there is a tent -- a temporary shelter that won't take long for Him to erect** -- Isaiah 4.

Zechariah says, **the Branch will build the temple when He comes again.**

Too bad the traditionalists who love their extreme drama, still don't love what the prophets told them so long ago. Probably, it is the ill-informed religious zealots; ignorant of God's word... who will ignite and enflame the final conflagration that comes to Jerusalem. But thanks be to God, that is starting to change.

For there, sits the throne of the household of David / the throne of David's greater Son that Daniel says will smash faithless Rome and all her Herodians in the last days... that throne of that household... is the only throne that matters; to be occupied by the Prince of Peace when He comes.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they securely rest who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your ruling high-places.

8 For the sake of my brothers and friends I will now say, Peace be within you / for the sake of any from the family of the LORD GOD, who are thankful to Him, David says, they are brothers and friends,

9 For the household of the LORD our God, I seek your good.

You know, many claim they love the LORD... but still the very best evidence is: **those who love one another**. Many will claim they love Jerusalem, but the very best evidence is: **those who pray and work to secure its peace**. And many will say that they want to bring a blessing to those in that part of the world, but the best way to really bless them is to bring them: **Jesus**.

3 Days are still on His Calendar

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