

The 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 17, 2023

“Advent in the Psalms: God’s Presence & Promise”

Psalm 132

Psalm 132 belongs to a collection of psalms, beginning with Psalm 120 and ending with Psalm 134, known as the “Psalms of _____” because they were traditionally recited by the Jewish people as they ascended up to Jerusalem during the great pilgrim _____.

Psalm 132 has the distinction of being the _____ of the Psalms of Ascent, and is divided into two sections. Verses 1-10 describing the oath that David makes to build a _____ for God. And verses 11-18 describing the oath that God makes to David that one of his sons would _____ on His throne forever.

Psalm 132 is a song for the holidays of ancient Israel. Only here, God’s people are not longing for their own home, as we might expect, but for _____ home—for the place where God’s _____ is said to dwell.

We get a sense in this pilgrim song, as we do in all the Psalms of Ascent, that the people are going up to Jerusalem to worship in the conviction that their deepest place of _____, their true spiritual home, can only be found in fellowship with the living God in the _____ that He’s chosen and in the _____ that He’s made.

TWO THEMES IN PSALM 132

Theme #1: _____.

Of course we know that God is _____, meaning He’s everywhere at all times and nothing can contain Him.

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven You are there. If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall leave me and Your right hand shall hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10)

“The heaven of heavens cannot contain You, how much less this house.” (1 Kings 8:27)

“The Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands.” (Acts 7:48)

“I will not enter my house or get into my bed. I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the mighty one of Jacob.” (Psalm 132:1-5)

During this period in salvation history, God had ordained to make His presence

known and to make Himself available to His people in this particular _____. It was the one plot of ground in all the universe where God had promised to display His _____ and meet with His people.

“Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. ‘Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!’ Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.” (Psalm 132:6-8)

The “it” that these verses are referring to is the _____, which served as the special symbol of God’s presence in the midst of His people.

The great symbol of the presence of God was essentially _____ from the heart of the community and nobody noticed! However, the ark wasn’t just a symbol of God’s presence; it was also the _____—the place where sin was dealt with and forgiveness and _____ offered. And so, for 20 years, the people also forgot about their need for _____.

This is the epitome of spiritual _____ or backsliding.

That’s how spiritual drift works—slowly, _____, over time, unseen and _____. It isn’t usually marked by a sharp turn, or a sudden, dramatic lurch into rebellion or _____. In fact, it’s usually marked by a careful perpetuation of all the right _____ forms; a going through the motions.

There’s still a form of _____, however, it’s unaware of, or forgets, that the one thing we need most of all isn’t ritual, words, or the rhythms of religion, but the _____ of the living God Himself

In verse 8, the people pray that God would _____ and go along with the ark to His resting place—that He’d fill the _____ once again—and eventually the temple itself, when Solomon builds it—with His glory and blessing.

It’s a prayer for the _____ and renewal of the presence of God in the place that He’s appointed.

Theme #2: _____.

“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. If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.’” (Psalm 132:11-12)

This is a synopsis of God’s covenant with David in 2 Samuel chapter 7, where God promised that David’s sons would _____ on His throne forever if they kept His covenant and His testimonies; and that ultimately one son in particular would reign

on David's throne, as God's final _____ one.

No wonder the people came up to Jerusalem at these great pilgrim feasts with high expectations of _____.

“Let your priests be clothed with righteousness and your saints shout for joy. For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.” (Psalm 132:9-10)

“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. I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.’” (Psalm 132:13-16)

That's how it's supposed to be when the people of God live under God's reign and _____ according to His Word—our cries and God's provision answer, _____, and mirror one another.

Everything else in this psalm—all the prayers of the people, their longing for the presence of God in His ordained place, and their desire for the blessings of righteousness and joy—hinges on the _____ of verses 17-18.

“There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine.” (Psalm 132:17-18)

3 METAPHORS THAT DESCRIBE GOD'S PROMISED ONE

- A _____. In the ancient near east, a horn was an image of _____ and power.

Unlike all the other kings in their weakness and failure, this king will be _____.

- A _____. There was a lamp in the tabernacle and then in the temple that burned day and night, symbolizing the constant _____ of God.

The fact that a lamp is used as an image of this coming King tells us that He's the instrument of illumination and _____ to His people, that He will guide and _____ them, He will give them light and in His light they will see light.

- A _____. A contrast is established. While His enemies are clothed with _____, this King's crown will never grow dull and never loses its _____.

This image is referring to the _____ of this King. That's what makes His

reign beautiful and glorious. There's nothing in His behaviour or demeanor to _____ His crown.

The psalmist certainly isn't talking about one of David's successors that we read about in the OT, but rather **the** successor to David's throne, _____.

“...the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-10)

Jesus is the mighty _____ who reigns at God's right hand, the sprouting horn for David. And Jesus is the lamp. He's the _____ light that gives light to all people. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, and of the _____ of His government and peace there will be no end. While His enemies will be clothed with shame, on His head the crown will always shine.

Psalm 132 is all about Jesus—He's the person through whom God's presence is _____ and Gods' promises are _____.

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

Skenoo = dwelt =

In other words, God dwells in the midst of His people now and forever in the man _____, Immanuel—God with us.

Jesus isn't just the true temple, but also the _____.

“We have redemption in Christ Jesus whom God put forward as a propitiation.” (Romans 3:25)

Jesus is the place where a holy God and sinners can be _____ through atonement by the shedding of blood. Jesus is the venue and focal point for _____.

In this baby cradled in the arms of Mary, the final _____ place of the presence of God, God available for sinners, dwelling in our midst, to meet with us, to be reconciled to us, had finally _____. Not a temple, not a mercy seat, not a wooden box or a stone edifice, but the man, Jesus Christ.

From Him, _____ for sinners is made available to the ends of the earth; and in Him, heaven and earth may be _____.

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:19-20)