

Evening Sermon Outline – October 24, 2021

“Attending (Church) = Ascending”

Psalm 122

**A Song of Ascents. Of David.** *If you love Christ, you will go up (ascend) with Him!*

I. *The gladness of an ascending believer -*

**A Song of Ascents. Of David.** <sup>1</sup> **I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.” Psalm 122:1**

As impure love inflames the mind, and summons the soul destined to perish to lust for earthly things, and to follow what is perishable, and precipitates it into lowest places, and sinks it into the abyss; so holy love raises us to heavenly things, and inflames us to what is eternal, and excites the soul to those things which do not pass away nor die, and from the abyss of hell raises it to heaven. Yet all love hath a power of its own, nor can love in the soul of the lover be idle; it must needs draw it on. But do you wish to know of what sort love is? See whither it leads.... Augustine

1. *As love for God in Old Testament time led His people happily to the temple in Jerusalem, so today, such love, leads God’s people happily to church, to fellowship, to worship with other believers –*

<sup>25</sup> **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)**

2. *Let us go into the house... is the same as “exhorting one another” in regard to assembling together ...*

A. *Note the Psalmist gladness is not just in the going to the house, but in the fact, others are encouraging him to do so!*

<sup>1</sup> **I was glad when they said to me...**

*This is the opposite of the Pastor’s daughter I knew many years ago –*

Me: “Lets have a Bible study”

Pastor’s Daughter: “No, I wanted to do something fun....”

B. *It is not only a joy to go there, but to stand there -*

<sup>2</sup> **Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Psalm 122:2 (NKJV)**

C. *This is opposite of what is mention in Psalm 1:1 –*

<sup>1</sup> **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)**

*Standing implies a degree of commitment to something, if it is the path of sinners, not a blessed path, it is one God will ultimately destroy!*

*Standing in Jerusalem, as communicated in this Psalm does not merely mean being in this particular location, but rather you are standing here, close to God! Even in the Old Testament this is / was hinting at spiritual realities –*

*“To Him Who is everywhere, men come, not by travelling, but by loving.” Augustine*

II. *A city built for community thanksgiving -*

<sup>2</sup> **Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together, <sup>4</sup> where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to the Testimony of Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. Psalm 122:3-4 (NKJV)**

1. *The compact nature of the city limited the number of people who would come to Jerusalem to **the tribes of the LORD***

*It was a place of fellowship for the people of God!*

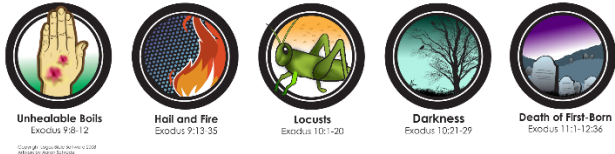
*It was a crowded place when all of God’s people got together ...*

2. *The “Testimony” of Israel is one of grace and miraculous redemption –*

A. *God brought ten plagues upon Egypt, before the miraculous parting the Red Sea -*



## The Ten Plagues of Egypt



B. *David's own testimony included victory over the Giant Goliath and the Philistines –*

C. *There is the Greatness and Holiness of God that is part of that testimony –*

<sup>11</sup> **“Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11 (NKJV)**

D. *Yet, God's great grace is part of that testimony as well –*

<sup>10</sup> **He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. Psalm 103:10–13 (NKJV)**

D. *We should (each of us) have our own testimony (testimonies) both as a church and as individuals -*

3. *The purpose of gathering is -*

<sup>3</sup> **to give thanks to the name of the LORD. Psalm 122:4 (NKJV)**

A. *We thank God with joyful worship -*

**A Psalm of Thanksgiving. <sup>1</sup> Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!**

**Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

B. *We thank God with glad service and singing -*

<sup>2</sup> **Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)**

C. *We thank God, and will thank Him more and more when we KNOW Him, know ourselves, and know His eternal truth, a big part of knowing Him is “entering His gates” today church attendance -*

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100:3-5 (NKJV)**

4. *The judgment of God is also right and glorious -*

<sup>5</sup> **For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.**

III. *Praying for Jerusalem's peace & prosperity –*

<sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup> **Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces.”**

<sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” <sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good. Psalm 122:6-9 (NKJV)**

1. *What is peace? Total welfare and blessing -*

2. *Why pray for peace in Jerusalem? :9*

3. *I believe the church, Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus are the New Jerusalem –*

<sup>2</sup> **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2 (NKJV)**

A. *This does not mean I cannot pray for physical Jerusalem -*

B. *This does mean I will pray for God's people, who are now the dwelling place of God's Spirit –*

<sup>19</sup> **Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)**

*Arnold Brevick*