

We come now to the longest of the Psalms of Ascents. We are not certain who wrote it, but what we do know is that the writer is humble because the basis for the Psalm is God's connection to David. In fact, David is mentioned four times in this Psalm (v. 1, 10, 11, 17).

It obviously is a good and God-honoring thing to remember faithful men of God who have been greatly used by God, like David.

Now we suspect that this Psalm was written after David was gone but before Solomon dedicated the Temple. The reason we suspect this is that Solomon quotes from this Psalm at the dedication of the Temple in II Chronicles 6:41-42. It may have been a time when God seemed to be far removed from Israel and the writer appeals to God to bless Israel in view of the promises and faithfulness of David.

What this Psalm communicates is this:

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT ISRAEL HAS WANDERED FAR FROM GOD, FOR THE SAKE OF DAVID, THE WRITER ASKS GOD TO ABUNDANTLY BLESS HIS NATION.

Psalm 131 was a Psalm of humility and this Psalm demonstrates great humility. The basis for the writer wanting the blessings of God was not due to Israel's faithfulness or his faithfulness, but to David's love for God and the word of God.

This Psalm specifically focuses on the Davidic role in getting the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

As I view it this is equivalent to us praying, "Lord we are a bunch of jerks and sinful failures, but for the sake of all the wonderful things you did for Dr. Chafer and with Mr. Miles, would you bless us any way."

Now the writer wants God to remember certain things in order to bless Israel. There are four remembrances that the writer wants God to have:

REMEMBRANCE #1 – The writer wants God to remember David's life and work. **132:1-5**

What the writer wants God to do is to remember the focus that David had on worshipping God and the focus he had on the Word of God, in spite of all the affliction he endured. David was a man who experienced many troubles and trials, but he never lost his focus on God or His Word.

David was always concerned that God have a reverent place of worship. This was his overwhelming ambition. He wanted to build a Temple for God. Passages like II Samuel 7:1-2 and I Chronicles 17:1-2, make this point very clear.

He not only had a heart dedicated to God, but he wanted to build a temple for God. He wanted a nice place that honored God for people to come and worship.

According to **verse 2**, he made a vow and swore an oath that he was not about to have a nice house until he had built a place for God (**132:2-4**). He did not think it was right for him to have a beautiful home and there was no place to worship God. **David was willing to sacrifice his own life of ease to support the worship and honor of God.**

In the end, it would be Solomon who would build the Temple. But David had it in his heart and he stayed focused on that objective and he did all he could to get the provisions for it.

Verse 4 says he would lie awake at night thinking about this. He wanted God to have a dwelling place worthy of the Great God He was.

Have you ever thought like that? Have you ever had a heart that has thought here we are living in a nice home and driving a nice car and wanting the best things, but I want the best for God? There are people who don't care what God's property even looks like. To them, any old thing will do. Well, not to David. David lost sleep over the work of God, the Word of God and the worship of God.

One commentator said one real mark of devotion to God is when we are willing to spend more of our time and money on God's house rather than our own. We are truly devoted when we would rather have our own home out of repair than God's house neglected. That was the heart of David.

REMEMBRANCE #2 – The writer wants God to remember Israel's desire to worship. **132:6-9**

Now the writer reminds God of what the people did when they learned that David was in the process of establishing a place of worship. They heard about this in Ephrathah. This was the most ancient name of Bethlehem and David was from Ephrathah (I Sam. 17:12). David spent his youth growing up in this area. This was not only David's home town, but this was the place where Rachel died (Gen. 35:19) and the place where Jesus would be born.

Now David grew up in Bethlehem, hearing about the ark of God. What David eventually did when he was in a position to do so was to go to Jaar to get the Ark of the Covenant and bring it to Jerusalem (I Chron. 13:5-13). Jaar is Kiriath-Jearim, which was located 10 miles west of Jerusalem.

So David had it in his heart to bring the ark to Jerusalem. He wanted to bring it there so God could be worshipped there. According to **verse 8**, this would be the permanent resting place for the ark.

Well, we may recall that because the ark was touched, God struck Uzza dead; but eventually the ark was taken to Jerusalem (I Chron.15:12).

The point of this is that when the people heard of this, they wanted to go worship God. They wanted the ark in Jerusalem; they wanted the priests clothed in righteousness and they wanted the godly ones to sing for joy.

When the people heard that the Word of God was there, they all wanted to go to this place.

In **verse 9**, there is a great statement for the priests of God, “let the priests be clothed with righteousness.” This is the key to powerful worship. We are all priests and if we want the blessings of God, we need to be clothed in righteousness.

REMEMBRANCE #3 – The writer wants God to remember His covenantal promises to David. **132:10-12**

God promised David that through him would come the anointed King who would reign (II Sam. 7:12-16).

Now in **verse 12** the writer reminds God that if they would obey Him and keep His covenant, Israel would sit on the throne and reign forever. God’s children can experience God’s blessings by obeying God’s Word.

The children of people who have experienced the blessings of God can experience great blessings if they will obey the Word of God.

Of course this is the problem. Israel did not obey God. So the writer is appealing to God to do this for David’s sake.

REMEMBRANCE #4 – The writer wants God to remember His choice of Israel. **132:13-18**

There are seven realities brought out here:

Reality #1 - God chose Zion. **132:13a**

God is a God of election. We cannot deny this. He chose Zion. Zion refers to the nation Israel. It refers to Jerusalem that is in Israel. It refers to the specific place of the Temple in Jerusalem. God’s election is that Israel is His nation, and Jerusalem is His capital city and Mt. Zion is the place of His Temple worship.

Reality #2 - God desires Israel to be His habitation. **132:13b-14**

God has determined that He will reign from this place forever. This is His chosen place of dwelling. One from the Davidic line will literally dwell in Jerusalem and reign forever. Why has he chosen this people and place—look at **verse 14**, because “I have desired it.”

Reality #3 - God has promised that He will bless Israel. **132:15**

God promises that He will abundantly bless Israel. He will bless her provisions and He will bless the poor.

Reality #4 - God has promised that joyful salvation will come to Israel. **132:16**

It may not look much like it now, but you may be certain that one day Israel will be seen and known as the blessed nation of God. Both priests and godly people will shout and sing of the blessings of God.

Reality #5 - God has promised that His anointed will come through David. **132:17**

The horn of David refers to His political strength; the lamp refers to the universal light and the crown (**v. 18**) refers to the Divine royalty. It is predicted that one from David's line will one day rule the world.

In the first words of the first verse of the first book of the New Testament, we read "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David" (Matt. 1:1).

Now we may be certain of this—Jesus Christ did come through the line of David and He will return and do what this Psalm says He will do.

Reality #6 - God has promised that He will shame David's enemies. **132:18a**

Enemies of God will not only be shamed, they will be crushed and destroyed. But the truth is when Jesus returns the entire world will be ashamed of their treatment of Him.

Reality #7 - God has promised that He will exalt David. **132:18b**

Here is great humility and great honesty in this Psalm. The writer knew that the people of God did not deserve the blessings of God, but he also knew that there was one who was focused on God who did deserve it.

That one is Jesus Christ.