

PSALM 122 2024 – *Let Us Go to the House of the Lord!*

2/24/24 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD - Phil Wickham – (3:50)

*We worship the God who was We worship the God who is We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors He parted the raging sea My God, He holds the victory
There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
(Oh-oh, oh) we shout out Your praise (Oh-oh, oh)
We sing to the God who heals We sing to the God who saves We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross Then He rose up from that grave My God's still rolling stones away
There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
We were the beggars Now we're royalty We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted Redeemed by His grace Let the house of the Lord sing praise
'Cause we were the beggars Now we're royalty We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted Redeemed by His grace Let the house of the Lord sing praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord (there is joy in the house) There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet (oh yeah) We shout out Your praise (I wanna shout out Your praise)
There's joy in the house of the Lord (there is joy) Our God is surely in this place (there is joy)
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise (we gonna shout out Your praise)
There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise (we gonna shout out Your praise)
There's joy in the house of the Lord (there is joy, there is joy) Our God is surely in this place (joy in this
place) And we won't be quiet (we won't be quiet)
We shout out Your praise We shout out Your praise
There is joy in the house, there is joy in the house today
We shout out Your praise We shout out Your praise*

PSALM 122 - David wrote it for the people to sing at the time of their goings up to the holy feasts at Jerusalem. It comes third in the series, and appears to be suitable to be sung when the people had entered the gates, and their feet stood within the city. It was most natural that they should sing of Jerusalem itself, and invoke peace and prosperity upon the Holy City, for it was the center of their worship, and the place where the LORD revealed himself above the mercy seat. Possibly the city was not all built in David's day, but he wrote under the spirit of prophecy, and spoke of it as it would be in the age of Solomon; a poet has license to speak of things, not only as they are, but as they will be when they come to their perfection. Jerusalem, or the Habitation of Peace, is used as the key word of this Psalm, wherein we have in the original many happy allusions to the *salem*, or peace, which they implored upon Jerusalem. When they stood within the triple walls, all things around the pilgrims helped to explain the words which they sang within her ramparts of strength. One voice led the Psalm with its personal "I," but ten thousand brethren and companions united with the first musician and swelled the chorus of the strain.

Let Us Go to the House of the LORD!

Psa 122:1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad (joy, rejoice) when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

- When the suggestion came, Let us go to the house of the LORD. The joy! I was glad at the prospect of going to worship God.
- David was glad to go into the house of the LORD, glad to go in holy company, glad to find good men and women willing to have him in their society.

- He may have been sad before, but this happy suggestion cheered him up: he pricked up his ears, as the proverb puts it, at the very mention of his Father's house.
- Is it so with us? Are we glad when others invite us to public worship, or to church fellowship? Then we shall be glad when the spirits above shall call us to the house of the LORD not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Psa 122:2 Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

- If we are within the church we may well triumph in the fact. While our feet are standing in Jerusalem our lips may well be singing.
- Outside the gates all is danger, and one day all will be destruction; but within the gates all is safety, seclusion, serenity, salvation, and glory.
- The gates are opened that we may pass in, and they are only shut that our enemies may not follow us.
- The LORD loves the gates of Zion, and so do we when we are enclosed within them.

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together,

- There was no flaw in this diamond of the world, this pearl of cities.
- In a church one of the most delightful conditions is the compactness of unity: “one LORD, one faith, one baptism.” A church should be one in creed and one in heart, one in testimony and one in service, one in aspiration and one in sympathy. They greatly injure our Jerusalem who would build dividing walls within her. She needs compacting, not dividing.
- There is no joy in going up to a church which is rent with internal dissension: the gladness of holy men is aroused by the adhesiveness of love, the unity of life; it would be their sadness if they saw the church to be a house divided against itself. Some bodies of Christians appear to be periodically blown to fragments, and no gracious man is glad to be in the way when the explosions take place. The tribes do not go up, for strife and contention are not attractive forces.

Psa 122:4 Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

- The anticipation of coming, standing within the city itself, within the walls of Jerusalem.
- That idea of compact together is where national groups can come together in a unity. Where the tribes go as one. Though they are the twelve tribes, yet as they gather together that unity that they experience as they feel unified together. A place where we are unified together. “Where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,”
- *To the Testimony* – the Law and the Gospel. ***(1Jn 5:10-11) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. [11] And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.***
- I was glad when it was suggested, Let's go to the house of the LORD that we might “give thanks to God, to the Name of the LORD.”

Psa 122:5 For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.

- There is the national headquarters, the national capital where the Supreme Court, the places where the judgment issued forth.
- To a true saint the throne is never more amiable than in its judicial capacity, righteous men love judgment, and are glad that right will be rewarded and iniquity will be punished. To see God reigning in the Son of David and evermore avenging the just cause is a thing which is good for weeping eyes, and cheering for disconsolate hearts. They sang of old as they went towards the throne, and so do we. “The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice.” The throne of judgment is not removed, but firmly “set,”

and there it shall remain till the work of justice is accomplished, and truth and right are set on the throne with their King. Happy people to be under so glorious a rule.

Psa 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

- And then David's own prayer. And for the peace. He exhorts you and others to pray for the peace, but this is his prayer.
- Here was a most sufficient reason for rejoicing at the thought of going up to the house of the LORD, since that sacred shrine stood in the center of an area of peace well might Israel pray that such peace should be continued.
- In a church peace is to be desired, expected, promoted, and enjoyed. One of the main ingredients of success is internal peace! Strife, suspicion, party-spirit, division, - these are deadly things. Those who break the peace of the church deserve to suffer, and those who sustain it win a great blessing.
- Peace in the church should be our daily prayer, and in so praying we shall bring down peace upon ourselves; for the Psalmist goes on to say, "They shall prosper that love You."
- Prosperity of soul is already enjoyed by those who take a deep interest in the church and cause of God: they are men of peace, and find peace in their holy endeavors: God's people pray for them, and God himself delights in them.
- Prosperity of worldly condition often comes to the lovers of the church if they are able to bear it: many a time the house of Obed-Edom is blessed because of the ark of the LORD. Because the Egyptian midwives feared the LORD, therefore the LORD made them houses. "
- *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*" Peace was her name, pray that her condition may verify her-title. Abode of Peace, peace be to thee.
- Whether the passage be regarded as a promise or as a prayer matters not, for prayer pleads the promise, and the promise is the ground of prayer.
- No man shall ever be a permanent loser by the house of the LORD: in peace of heart alone, if in nothing else, we find recompense enough for all that we can do in promoting the interests of Zion.

Psa 122:7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

- Notice how the psalmist personifies the church and speaks to it; his heart is with Zion, and therefore his conversation runs in that direction.
- The second time is the sweet favor of peace earnestly sought after: "There is none like it, give it me."
- Walls were needed to keep out the foe, but it was asked of the LORD that those walls might prove sufficient for her security.
- Peace is prosperity; there can be no prosperity which is not based on peace, nor can there long be peace if prosperity be gone, for decline of grace breeds decay of love.
- We wish for the church rest from internal dissension and external assault: war is not her element, but we read of old, (*Act 9:31*) *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the LORD and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*
- Note that our Jerusalem is a city of palaces: kings dwell within her walls, and God himself is there. The smallest church is worthy of higher honor than the greatest confederacies of nobles. The order of the New Jerusalem is of more repute in heaven than the knights of the Golden Fleece. For the sake of all the saintly spirits which inhabit the city of God we may well entreat for her the boons of lasting peace and abounding prosperity.

Psa 122:8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

- It is to the advantage of all Israel that there should be peace in Jerusalem. It is for the good of every Christian, yes, of every man, that there should be peace and prosperity in the church.
- We cannot but pray for a cause with which our dearest relatives and choicest friends are associated, if they labor for it, we must and will pray for it.
- Here peace is mentioned for the third time. The repetition of the desire displays the writer's high valuation of the blessing mentioned. He would not again and again have invoked peace had he not perceived its extreme desirableness.

Psa 122:9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

- The presence of Jehovah, our God, endears to us every place wherein He reveals His glory. Well may we seek her good within whose walls there, dwells God who alone is good.
- We are to live for God's cause, and to be ready to die for it. First we love it! Then, we labor for it, as in this passage. We see its good, and then seek its good.
- If we can do nothing else we can intercede for it. Our covenant relation to Jehovah as our God binds us to pray for His people, - they are "*the house of the LORD our God.*" If we honor our God, we desire the prosperity of the church which He has chosen for His indwelling.
- Thus is the psalmist's glad invitation to join with others in the LORD's service. He goes with them and rejoices, and then he turns his delight into devotion, and intercedes for the city of the great King. O church of the living God, we hail Your assemblies, and on bended knee we pray that you may have peace and felicity. May our Jehovah so send it. Amen.

SUMMARY

- What a sweet Sabbath Psalm is this! Considering the LORD's day, and all its hallowed associations, our soul rejoices. How well, also, may it refer to the church! We are happy when we see numerous bands ready to unite themselves with the people of God. The pastor is specially glad when many come forward and ask of him assistance in entering into fellowship with the church. No language is more cheering to him than the humble request, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." Do you joy in the church? Your going to your church? Are you seeking the good of your church?

THE HOLY CITY – F. E. Weatherly, Stephen Adams, Andre Rieu (5:15)

*Last night I lay a-sleeping There came a dream so fair, I stood in old Jerusalem Beside the temple there.
I heard the children singing, And ever as they sang Me thought the voice of angels From heaven in answer rang,
Me thought the voice of angels From heaven in answer rang. Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King!
And then me thought my dream was changed, The streets no longer rang. Hushed were the glad Hosannas
The little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery, The morn was cold and chill,
As the shadow of a cross arose Upon a lonely hill, As the shadow of a cross arose Upon a lonely hill.
Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Hark! How the angels sing, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King!
And once again the scene was changed, New earth there seemed to be. I saw the Holy City Beside the tideless sea.
The light of God was on its streets, The gates were open wide, And all who would, might enter,
And no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night, Or sun to shine by day; It was the new Jerusalem
That would not pass away, It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away. Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Sing for the night is o'er!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore!*

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!

CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW LOCATION!!