

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 7 – Friday

Col. 1:24 – Footnote 24¹

Psalm 132:1 says, “LORD, remember David And all his afflictions.” David suffered many afflictions for the sake of God’s dwelling place. These afflictions were not the same as most people experience; they were particularly for building the house of God, for David to accomplish God’s purpose. This kind of affliction is the same as what Paul mentioned in Colossians 1:24 when he said, “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.” There is a certain kind of suffering, of affliction, that is for the sake of building up the church. This is to fill up on our part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ. So here it mentions David and all his afflictions. This kind of afflictions is for the sake of the building up of God’s dwelling place.

This type of suffering is neither because we committed sin nor because of the indulgence of the flesh. It is because we love God and we understand His desire for us to satisfy Him and fulfill His will that we endure many sufferings. When David was fleeing from Saul, he was in a truly hard situation and he experienced real suffering. David was out there by himself when he realized that the ark of God did not have a dwelling place. He felt that God’s satisfaction was much more important than his own satisfaction.

Verses 2 to 5 say, “How he swore to the LORD (Jehovah) and made a promise to the Mighty One of Jacob: ‘Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of 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.’” David’s desire was intense for the building of God’s temple so that God could find rest among His people. His desire was fully for God, as if he were saying, “Lord! You can deprive me, You can give me sufferings, but in the midst of suffering, I will gather the material to build Your temple.”

David disregarded his own rest, and only cared for the ark of God and its dwelling place. Because David shed much blood, God did not allow him to build the temple. However, God revealed the blueprint of the temple to David. When David was in battle by himself, through all the hardships that he experienced, he prepared many materials for the God he loved. Even though God would not allow David to build the temple, God showed him the blueprint. It was through the battles that he fought and the things that he suffered that he gained the materials to build the temple (2 Sam. 8:11). Before he passed away he offered everything to God for the building of God’s temple. David not only had the desire, he had the action; he offered everything he had gained through battle and through his own savings to God for the building of God’s temple. This was how he prepared the material for God’s building. This is the main reason he pleased God and was accepted by God. This is also the pattern for all of us who desire to serve the Lord.