

# The Psalms of Ascents

## A Testimony of the Maturity of Life—Caring for the Building Up of God’s Dwelling Place, the Church (1)

### Week 7 – Monday

Deut. 12:5-7, 17-18 – Footnote 17<sup>1</sup>

Psalm 132 is a very precious and important psalm. On the one hand, this psalm talks about the will of a man who is mature in life, whose desire is to satisfy God’s heart’s desire, and who expects to build a dwelling place for God. On the other hand, we see that God is also concerned about this person, concerned about his family and concerned about his kingdom; God wants to satisfy this person and perfect him. This psalm shows how David cared for God’s dwelling place. He cared for God’s building and touched what is important in God’s heart. David pleased God through his entire life. While he was still young, God said, “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will” (Acts 13:22). Among all the Isrealites, God found one man of whom He could testify that he knew His heart. Now we want to see why did God never testified of others that they knew His heart; He only spoke this of David.

According to Psalm 132 the main aspect of David caring for God’s heart is his care for God’s dwelling place and His building. Here was a man who received a revelation and vision while he was still young that God desires a dwelling place, a resting place. In Deuteronomy Moses repeatedly said that when they enter into the land of Canaan, they must go to the place God would choose three times a year to worship and serve God (Deut. 12:5-7, 11, 14, 17-18, 26; 14:23-25). God said to His people many times, “the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name.” This means that God would choose a place to establish His name. That place is the place where the ark of God rests. God spoke this through Moses even before they entered into the land of Canaan, about 1,500 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After they entered into the land of Canaan, Joshua led them to conquer the land and dwell in the land. About 500 years passed from the time of Moses’ speaking through the ages of Joshua, of the judges, of Samuel, and of Saul. During that 500 year span, God gained many people. Many people rose up to fight for God’s interests by defeating the Gentiles and rescuing the Isrealites. Still, not one of them cared for God’s dwelling place and His building. In the time of the high priest Eli, he was both the high priest and the judge, but during his time the ark was captured by the Gentiles. Then God acted to protect His own glory, so in the end the Philistines returned the ark.