

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 7 – Tuesday

Psalm 132:1-6

After the ark was returned to Israel it rested in the house of Abinadab for another 60 years. During this span of time God had not found the place where He could rest; His resting place was not built. The place that God had chosen for His resting place had not been gained until David became the king of the entire nation of Israel. The first thing that he did after that was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites (2 Sam. 5). Then David went to bring the ark to Jerusalem because that was the place where God had chosen to establish His name. The Israelites were to go there three times a year to worship God. Worshipping God together in one place three times a year was the way that God had established to keep the oneness of His people.

David had a desire even when he was young to build a dwelling place for God. Therefore, God gave him the revelation of the place that He had chosen, Jerusalem. Thus, David first captured Jerusalem and then carried the ark to the place in Jerusalem where he had pitched a tent for it (2 Sam. 6:17). The tabernacle of Moses was still at Shiloh but David did not take the ark there because that was not the place that God had chosen. This is how David cared for God's dwelling place and His building. This proves that the psalmist had been in total union with God and that he had grown to maturity. At this time, all his thoughts are uniquely God, what he wants to fulfill and what he has to satisfy God are God's will and God Himself.

David had a desire before God, which was to find a place for God's ark, and he wanted to build a dwelling place for the ark of God. David had this desire since his childhood. In this psalm he tells us, "Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah" (Psa. 132:6). Ephrathah is Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) where David grew up.

David was guarding the flock when he was young. At that time, he might have already begun to care about the ark of God. He had heard how the ark of God had led the people of God through the great wilderness, how it had led the people of God over the river Jordan, and how it had led the people to fight for the good land. He had also heard how the ark of the covenant had been taken away by the Philistines, but God had been protecting His glory all the while, and how the Philistines had been compelled to return the ark. Lastly, he had heard how the ark remained in "the fields of the woods."

David's heart could not wait to reach the place of the ark, and bow down to God. He could not wait to see the priests put on righteousness and the people of God shout for joy. This was David's heartfelt longing. David's heart desired the ark, and he was very willing to find a resting place for the ark, and to build a temple for the ark. He knew that God was willing to live in His people, but he also knew that God had no rest in His people. Thus David's only wish was to fulfill the desire of God, in order that God might live in His people.