

Psalm 122 is a Psalm written by David about the subject of going to the Tabernacle in Jerusalem to worship God. It is a prophetic Psalm that shows what the attitude will be in the Millennium when people have the privilege of going to worship God in the Temple in Jerusalem.

There are tremendous applications that we may make from all Scripture and I specifically want to slant this text toward the place that is so important to worship in this dispensation: the church. Although this text is really not aimed at the church, it is certainly applicable because we live in the Church Age and we go to church to worship God.

I am convinced that when we get into eternity, we will discover the greatest investment of our time and resources and the greatest investment of our life took place in the context of the Church.

Now the primary point of the Psalm is this:

TRUE WORSHIP THAT MAKES ONE GLAD IS WORSHIP THAT FOR ISRAEL IS WORSHIP THAT WILL BE IN A SPECIFIC PLACE, WILL HAVE PROPER ATTITUDES AND PROPER ACTIONS.

There is a great deal to glean from this Psalm about future worship in Jerusalem and there is much to be gleaned about our present worship in the church.

There are three main observations we want to make concerning Israel's worship and our worship:

**WORSHIP OBSERVATION #1 – Israel will be glad when it is time to go and worship God.
122:1**

When David said, "I was glad" he means that this subject I am discussing brings me great joy and happiness. When it came time to go to publicly worship God, he was happy. The thought of going to these festivals made him very happy.

When it is time to go to worship, we should be glad. There will come a time when all will be glad to go worship God.

When Jesus Christ reigns in the Millennium, there will be no drudgery in going to the Temple to worship God. When our hearts are right with God, there is no drudgery in going to God's church to worship God.

What is our attitude on Sunday? Do you get up Sunday with an expectancy that I am going to church and I am going to hear the Word of God and I am going to hear from God? Or is our attitude well here we go again, it is another Sunday and I have to go to church even though I don't want to get out of bed?

Our attitude about going to worship says much about our relationship with God. When our children were in the home and Mary would say, "It is time to eat," we would all go running to the table. When Sunday comes around and you know it is time to go feed on the meat of God's Word, you ought to run to the church with gladness.

WORSHIP OBSERVATION #2 – Israel will worship God in a specific place. **122:2-4a**

David thought of a time when Israel would literally stand with their feet in Jerusalem because the entire nation was in a right relationship with God.

For the most part, Israel has used her feet to run to various places in the world. She has spread out and has been dispersed among all the nations of the world. But there will come a time when she will literally be in her land and will go to her city, Jerusalem, as the great nation of God. She will worship God and will be esteemed by every nation in the world. This is what made David so happy.

In the Millennium, glad worship will literally take place in Jerusalem. People will actually travel to Jerusalem to worship God. They will literally use their feet to get there. In fact, one will not be able to worship God fully without being in Jerusalem.

Now the principle we draw from this is that we cannot enter into full worship of God without being in a church. If we are to grow and develop, we must go to church, the place God has selected for His worship.

There are four facts we want to point out about this place of worship here:

Fact #1 - It is a place that has been built. **122:3a**

The Omnipresence of God cannot be more or less in one place or another; but God's presence and power can be specifically realized in one place or another.

The "House of the LORD" will be built. This is a distinct reference to the Temple of Jerusalem that will be built as a place to worship God. This place will become a place known for worship.

This is really what a N.T. church should be; a place known for worship.

Fact #2 - It is a place that is compact together. **122:3b**

The point of this is that there will come a day when people will go to worship and sense a tight-knit unity among the worshippers because they are all there to worship God. There will be no sectarian barriers among people. There will be a unity with no divisions and discord. All people will gather together to worship the true God. This is the way the church should be.

Fact #3 - It is a place where the tribes go. **122:4a**

This has specific reference to the twelve tribes of Israel. They will all be united and joyful to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship God. It has been a long time since all of Israel was united, but there will come a day when she will be again.

The church should be a place where various people can go to hear the Word and worship God.

Fact #4 - It is a place specifically ordained for worship. **122:4b**

The Word of God required that Israel go to the Temple at least three times a year to worship. This was an order from God. But the people were joyful and happy to do this.

The idea of going to church is mandated by God. We are not to forsake ourselves from assembling together. If we are to worship God in an acceptable way, we must go to the place that He has established for worship. That place is His church.

WORSHIP OBSERVATION #3 – Israel will worship God with proper worship activity.
122:4b-9

It is clear that the House of the Lord is not to be a free-for-all gymnasium in which we serve pop and candy bars. It is to be a serious place of worship.

Now there are about four important realities that David brings out:

Reality #1 - This is to be a place where God is thanked. **122:4b**

Every time God's people gather to worship, they should thank God for the privilege of being able to gather together for worship.

There will come a day when people will go to Jerusalem and go to the Temple with thankful hearts.

Reality #2 - This is to be a place where judgments are made. **122:5a**

There will come a day when there will be no separation of church and state. It is very possible to make right legal decisions based on God's Word.

Every now and then you will hear that the church should not be judgmental. Truth is in order to worship God properly, it must be. It must make all kinds of judgment decisions.

Jerusalem will feature thrones and those on those thrones will make judgments based on the Word of God. One writer said in a true church of God there will be judgments.

Reality #3 - This is to be a place of appointed leadership. **122:5b**

God has sanctioned a leadership that will make judgments and it will be a Davidic leadership. In any operation of God there is ordained leadership. One day Israel will rule the world.

Reality #4 - This is to be a place of prayer. **122:6-9**

There are three issues intertwined here and they all begin with a word that starts with the letter "P." The words are 1) Prayer; 2) Peace; 3) Prosperity.

Someone has said peace largely depends on prosperity and prosperity largely depends on prayer.

Now the specific admonition given here is to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Pray that Israel may prosper.

There are very few churches in this world that regularly pray for Israel. Now what we know from studying the Bible is that when Israel is in her land and prospering and is at peace, then Jesus Christ will be here on earth reigning in Jerusalem.

The nation will be in a right relationship with God and the rest of us who are believers will share in the wonderful blessings of God.

Now there are two reasons stated why we should pray for the peace and prosperity of Israel:

(Reason #1) - Because of the sake of our brothers and friends. **122:8**

David was willing to pray for peace in Jerusalem and for prosperity for the sake of his brothers and friends. When God answers this prayer, things would be good for Jews and friends of Israel.

(Reason #2) – Because of the sake of the house of God. **122:9**

When people go to the house of God, then things are good.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1) This Sunday when you get up to go to church, be glad and go expecting to hear from God.**
- 2) Remember the church is a place set aside for worship.**
- 3) Remember that the church is to be a place of prayer.**
- 4) Remember the church is to be a place where judgments are made.**
- 5) Remember at church we are to pray for peace and prosperity for Israel and ourselves.**