

Psalms of Ascents 132 “Better Promises”
Psalm 132:1-18
March 30, 2025

Psalm 132:1-18

- 1 Remember, O Lord, in David's favor,
all the hardships he endured,
- 2 how he swore to the Lord
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
- 3 “I will not enter my house
or get into my bed,
- 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
- 5 until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”
- 6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- 7 “Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool!”
- 8 Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your saints shout for joy.
- 10 For the sake of your servant David,
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
- 11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:
“One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.
- 12 If your sons keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
their sons also forever
shall sit on your throne.”
- 13 For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:
- 14 “This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
- 15 I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.
- 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine.”

Looking backward to better understand what is ahead.

The Ark of the Covenant.

1 Samuel 7:2

2 From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

2 Chronicles 6:41-42

41 "And now arise, O Lord God, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

Let your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation,
and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.

42 O Lord God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one!
Remember your steadfast love for David your servant."

A prayer and a promise.

Psalms 132:11

11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

"One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

2 Samuel 7:11-13

... The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise.

Psalms 132:15-18

15 I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.

16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.

17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

18 His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine."

God keeps better promises than we can make.

Ephesians 1:3-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us[b] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Live within the bigger plans and wonderful promises seen in Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- The beginning of Psalm 132 is meant to take God's people to the exuberant scene of the returning ark and the finishing of the Temple. What might it have been like to be part of those historic moments? Can you remember a moment when you felt God's presence? What are some of your memories and feelings connected to that experience?
- How should we reflect upon and appreciate the David's zeal for God's presence?
- What is the right application of David's example for our lives?
- The second half of Psalm 132 reveals what God promises to do? Discuss the idea that God keeps better promises that we can make. Have you seen God answer prayer in even bigger ways than expected?
- In what ways does Psalm 132 point to Jesus? How might it also point to Christ's Church?
- How can Psalm 132 create confidence in you as your life is connected to God's great promises being kept and fulfilled?