

PSALM 122

Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Song of Ascents. Of David. "David's Thankful Prayer for Jerusalem."
- B. This seems to be one of the most appropriate of the Ascent Psalms. One can imagine the pilgrims going to Jerusalem, and greeting others as they met them with, "Come, let us go into the house of the Lord." This was especially appropriate for David, who had conquered the fortress of Salem, called it his city, and brought the ark of the covenant there. To be there must have been an emotional experience for him and the children of Israel who came to worship and sing this psalm by David.

THE TEXT.

- 122:1** I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2** Our feet are standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem,
- 3** Jerusalem, that is built
As a city that is compact together;
- 4** To which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD--
An ordinance for Israel--
To give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 5** For there thrones were set for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.
- 6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7** "May peace be within your walls,
And prosperity within your palaces."
- 8** For the sake of my brothers and my friends,
I will now say, "May peace be within you."
- 9** For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

COMMENTS.

[v1,2] "Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!" We can imagine the joy of pilgrims reaching Jerusalem, and the even greater joy of David after he had moved the ark to the city. As Christians we should have the same joy in coming to our assemblies for worship as we contemplate the heavenly Jerusalem of eternity (Heb. 12:22-24).

[v3] "Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together..." This reminds us of how David built the city (see 2Sam. 5:9). It is amazing how "scholars" are willing to change the text to fit their speculations. Dummelow stated that, "This is descriptive of the appearance of the rebuilt city." Why would he change the text? He has decided that the psalm was written after the Babylonian captivity and must have the text conform to his theory.

[v5-7] "...thrones of the house of David..." would refer a monarchy at least, and seems to identify with David's reign. "Prosperity within your palaces..." would also identify the time of writing as the kingdom period.

[v8,9] He prays for peace on Jerusalem for the sake of brethren and the house of God.