

PSALM 133

The Excellency of Brotherly Unity.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (12-18-96).
- B. A Song of Ascents. Of David. "The Excellency of Brotherly Unity."
- C. Coffman says that of all the suggestions as to the occasion of this psalm, the most reasonable to him is of Matthew Henry: "Some conjecture that David penned this psalm upon the occasion of the union of all Twelve Tribes when they met unanimously to make him king" (2Sam. 5:1-3).
- D. It contains some of the most beautiful figures describing unity found in the Bible.

THE TEXT.

- 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!
- 2** It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.
- 3** It is like the dew of Hermon
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the LORD commanded the blessing--life forever.

COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1]** "...how good... how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." "Brethren" here is in a broad national sense. The time of the Judges, when "every man did what was right in his own eyes," (Jud. 21:25) showed the need for national unity. The High Priest was the first to unite the nation as a leader.
"good," and "pleasant..." It is often the case that something that is good for us is not pleasant, and what is pleasant is not good.
- B. **[v2]** "It (unity of brethren) is like the precious oil upon the head..." Two harmonious figures are used here to represent unity. The first is oil on the head, or the anointing of oil for prophets, priests and kings. Here it is the anointing of the priests, represented by Aaron. National worship was an important unifying force for Israel. One High Priest for all of the nation emphasized that all were brothers.
- C. **[v3]** "It is like the dew of Hermon..." During the 6-7 months of the summer, they had almost no rain. They depended on the heavy dews to sustain the crops and the land. Hermon was the highest mountain in Palestine, and the snow and dew from Hermon was the source of the Jordan River. It blessed the whole nation, just like peace and harmony among all the people would be a blessing.