



JERUSALEM

PSALM 122: A Song of Ascents. Of David.

[1] I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” [2] Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

1) Jerusalem is a gathering point for _____.

[3] Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, [4] to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

*“We live in what one writer has called “the age of sensation.” We think that if we don’t feel something there can be no authenticity in doing it. But the wisdom of God says something different: that we can **act** ourselves into a new way of feeling much quicker than we can **feel** ourselves into a new way of acting. Worship is an **act** that develops feelings for God, not a **feeling** for God that is expressed in an act of worship. When we obey the command to praise God in worship, our deep, essential need to be in relationship with God is nurtured.”*

--Eugene Peterson

2) In Jerusalem the _____ & the _____ were together.

[5] There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

Luke 19:41–44 [41] And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, [42] saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side [44] and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

3) God’s plan for Jerusalem is _____.

[6] Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you! [7] Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!” [8] For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!” [9] For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.

1. What were some of the key points you remember from our study of Psalm 121 last week.
2. How do you feel about this idea of it being “decreed” to give thanks to God? How do you react to worship being “commanded?”
3. Think back to your times of worship. Does God’s command to “worship Him” play in at all?
4. *(Big question here, open for plenty of healthy debate, but NOT argument or hard feelings. If you sense this, pull the plug on the conversation).* How separate should church be from state? What are the pros and cons of a church-run state?
5. What new things did you learn about Jerusalem?
6. Does this little Psalm change the way you view Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular?
7. Read Romans 11:25-28. How does this passage (and chapter) help us understand the continuing role Jews have in the redemption story?
8. Are you glad when someone says, “Let us go to the house of the Lord?”