

Studies In Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 122

4/3/13

There is uncertainty regarding the author, time, or circumstances of these Psalms, but it is apparent [Psalms 120-134](#) work together, and are called the "Songs of Degrees," and sometimes "Songs of Ascension." This Psalm appears to have been written by David, and sung when Israelites went to Jerusalem 3 times a year ([Deuteronomy 16:16](#)).

Psalm 122 Jerusalem, the Holy City

Verses 1-5 show why Jerusalem is the Royal City;
Verses 6-9 show how Jerusalem is the Holy City.

Verses 1-5: (Verse 1) True worshippers are "glad" to "go into the house of the LORD." The "house of the LORD" under Moses was the Tabernacle, until Solomon built the Temple where sacrifices were offered to God in Jerusalem ([2 Chronicles 3:1](#)). Before the Temple was built, David, when his child died, "went into the house of the LORD and worshiped" ([2 Samuel 12:20](#)). In the New Testament, the "house of God" is "the church of the living God" ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)), "the temple" "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" ([Ephesians 2:19-22](#)).

(Verse 2) How privileged worshippers were to be in that city. In the New Testament, how privileged worshippers are to be in "the heavenly Jerusalem." "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel" ([Hebrews 12:22-24](#)).

(Verse 3) Jerusalem was fortified when built ([2 Samuel 5:7-9](#)), and walled when rebuilt ([Nehemiah 12:27](#)). The church of Christ, as the "new Jerusalem" ([Revelation 21:2](#)), is walled by obedience which keeps the corrupt people out of it until they repent and are baptized into Jesus Christ ([Revelation 21:9-27](#); [Acts 2:38](#)).

(Verse 4) Jerusalem was a place for uniting the "tribes" of Israel who obeyed the "Testimony of Israel" and gave "thanks to the name of the LORD." The people were one as a people, in obedience, at worship. Isaiah prophesied about the church of Christ in [Isaiah 2:2-3](#):

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Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem ([Isaiah 2:2-3](#)).

(Verse 5) Jerusalem was the place for "the thrones of the house of David." Solomon was on that throne ([1 Kings 2:24](#)); and other Kings of Judah, until Coniah to whom God promised "none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah" ([Jeremiah 22:24-30](#)). Jesus Christ was preached on Pentecost, in Jerusalem, by the Apostles: "Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption" ([Acts 2:29-31](#)).

Verses 6-9: (Verses 6-7) Jerusalem was to have been ruled by "peace," they "prayed" for, "prospered" under, and were ruled by in their "walls" and "palaces." The church of Christ must "let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" ([Colossians 3:15](#)).

(Verse 8) The customary greeting from the Jews is "Shalom" (Peace to you). The Apostle Paul in the New Testament repeated this constant desire for brethren ([Romans 1:7](#); [1 Corinthians 1:3](#); [2 Corinthians 1:2](#); [Galatians 1:3](#); [Ephesians 1:2](#); [Philippians 1:2](#); [Colossians 1:2](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:1](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:2](#); [1 Timothy 1:2](#); [2 Timothy 1:2](#); [Titus 1:4](#); [Philemon 3](#)).

(Verse 9) "Because" God's House could draw His people together at times, they were able to "seek" each other's "good." The church of Christ assembles to "hold fast the confession of *our* hope," and "consider one another" ([Hebrews 10:23-25](#)). When this is not the case, the Devil has prevailed, just as he did in the Old Testament.

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