

**Opening Illustration:** Dreading Saturday afternoon services at the nursing home with Dad and my brothers. It meant: (1) blue polyester sport coats (2) weird smells (3) awkward conversations (4) and lots of singing. 😊

**G. Campbell Morgan suggests the following outline:**

Psalm 120-121 – In the far country

**Psalm 122-123 – The Start of the Journey**

Psalm 124-125 – The Journey

Psalm 126-131 – Approaching the City

- 126 – Joy and Repentance
- 127 – Family Strength
- 128 – Family Responsibility
- 129 – A Backward Look
- 130 – Humility and Confidence
- 131 – Rest in God’s Will

Psalm 132-The Entrance

Psalm 133-134 – The City and Worship

## **READ PSALM 122**

- **The anticipation of the pilgrim. (1)**
- **The reflection of the pilgrim. (2-5)**
- **The petition of the pilgrim. (6-9)**

### **I. The anticipation of the pilgrim.** [A genuine heartfelt desire to worship God.] (1-2)

I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

<sup>2</sup>Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!

#### **A. He was eager to worship in spirit.** (*John 4:24*)

- He was euphoric. (GLAD) (1a)
- He was nostalgic. (SENTIMENTAL) (2a)

#### **B. He was eager to worship in truth.**

- He understood the significance of God’s presence in the temple. (1b)
- He understood the significance of God’s plan for the city of Jerusalem. (2b)

### **I. The anticipation of the pilgrim. (1-2)**

**II. The meditation of the pilgrim.** [Noting the significance of the city of Jerusalem in God's redemptive plan... to offer security to God's children (2-3), community for God's children (4), and stability for God's children (5)]. (2-5)

- **GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP!**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**A. The location of worship (3)**

- **Jerusalem...**
- Jerusalem is a place of security *within the wilderness... elevated, fortified, and well supplied.*

**B. The frequency of worship (4a) – Deut. 16:16... 3x a year**

- **“to which the tribes go up...”**

Deuteronomy 16:16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

**C. The participants of worship (4b)**

- **“the tribes of the LORD...”**
- worship of Yahweh is reserved for those who are followers of Yahweh.
- Jerusalem is a place of community *for God's people... a gathering place for friends and family for the common purpose of worship*

**D. The priority of worship (4c)**

- **“as was decreed (or as a testimony) for Israel...”**
- the very act of traveling to Jerusalem to worship the Lord 3x a year taught a lesson to the children and grandchildren about the priority of worship (4b) – Psalm 78:5-8

<sup>5</sup>He established a testimony in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers  
to teach to their children,  
<sup>6</sup>that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;

<sup>8</sup>and that they should not be like their fathers,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

- **“to give thanks to the name of the LORD...”**
- The Hiphil stem generally expresses causative action in active voice
  - CAUSE TO GIVE THANKS...

#### **E. The purpose of worship (5)**

- Praise, trust, and submit to God for establishing a plan to offer justice
- **“there thrones for judgment were set...”**
  - Jerusalem is the center of judicial stability *as established by God*
  - Deut. 17:8; 2 Sam. 15:2; 1 Kings 3:16; 7:7; 2 Chr. 19:8
    - ULTIMATE JUSTICE COMES THROUGH JESUS
- Praise, trust, and submit to God for making and keeping His promises
- **“the thrones of the house of David...”**
  - Jerusalem is the center of judicial stability *as blessed by God*
  - ULTIMATE HOPE COMES FROM THE THRONE OF DAVID – JESUS  
(Matthew 1:1)

### **Application to the Church:**

#### **A. The location of worship (3) [not Israel alone]**

- John 4:24 – anywhere works

<sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

#### **B. The frequency of worship (4a) [not 3x a year]**

- Colossians 2:16 – any time works

<sup>16</sup>Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

#### **C. The participants of worship (4b) [not Jews alone]**

- Hebrews 4:14-16 - Every believer has direct access to the throne through Jesus Christ

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

#### **D. The priority of worship (4c) [pass along truth to the next generation]**

- Ephesians 5:25-27; 6:4 – every Dad is responsible to point his wife and children to Christ

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

**E. The purpose of worship (5) [*Glorify God by submitting to His plan for justice*]**

- Romans 12:1; Eph. 3:20 – respond to God’s mercies with submission and sacrifice

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## **Application:**

- **Make worship a priority in your life:**
  - **Daily** – Plan. Place. Pattern.
  - **Weekly** – Worship Services, community groups, family worship (3x each week)
  - **Monthly** – Take an individual or family spiritual retreat to reignite your passion for God and His Word

- I. *The anticipation of the pilgrim. (1-2)*
- II. *The meditation of the pilgrim. (3-5)*
- III. **The petition of the pilgrim. (6-9)**

<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

“May they be secure who love you!

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls

and security within your towers!”

<sup>8</sup>For my brothers and companions' sake

I will say, “Peace be within you!”

<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

#### **A. Bring peace to Israel. (6-8; Ps. 51:18; Jer. 29:7)**

▪ Mentioned 3x in verses 6-8

- Requesting peace for the city of Jerusalem – the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan to offer peace to the entire world.
- Requesting peace and prosperity for the people in the city. (6-8)
  - Those who love you (6)
  - Those living in the homes and securing the city walls (7)
  - From my brothers and companions’ sake (8)

#### **B. Bring glory to the God of Israel. (9; Neh. 2:10; Esth. 10:3)**

- Requesting peace and prosperity for the house of the LORD our God (9)
- For the protection of the temple
  - For the pleasure of God

### **Application:**

- Are you eager to worship God? (1-2)
  - Do you spend any time preparing physically, emotionally, and spiritually for worship each day... before Community Group Gatherings... or before our Sunday morning worship services?
  - Do you worship Him in SPIRIT (emotionally) and in TRUTH (volitionally)?
- Are you standing in awe of what God is doing to build up our church? (3-5)
  - How He is working through our church to provide a place of community and justice?
- Are you praying for the peace of God to dwell among the people in our church? (6-8)
- Are you seeking the fame of God among the nations through our church? (9)