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**2/10/91**

**Psalm 131—139**

Tonight we want to continue in our study of the <sup>P</sup>salms of Degrees or Ascents” which were sung by

those pilgrims going up to Jerusalem during the Feasts required by the law. Deut 16:16

—Ps 120—134

**Psalm 131**

-Psalm of coming to child like faith and trust in God from a one time proud and arrogant spirit.

—vs—1 His confession

—vs-2 His declaration

-vs—3 His exhortation

**131:1** the psalmists personal experience of coming to rest in God putting to death: 1) pride  
2) arrogance 3) difficult things that drive him away from God’s rest.

\*all this is contrary to the natural man.

**131:2** The picture of a weaned child marks his lack

of:

- 1) depending on those former things
- 2) satisfaction and tranquillity of soul by God and His word.

all —Math 11:28—30 Come to me,  
—Math 18:34 humble like a little child

**131:3** He invites Israel to partake of His peace and rest in God as they journey towards Jerusalem.

**Psalm 132**

—Thought to be a processional hymn as they approach the city centering on Zion where David brought the ark and God’s faithfulness to David in choosing both Zion and David.

—vs—1—10 Prayer of remembrance by Israel

—vs-11—18 God’s faithfulness to David

**132:1—5** David’s vow and love for God

—The ark had been neglected and left at the house of Abinidab. 2 Sam 6

—He transported it on a cart and Uzzah touched it and died

—David returned after 3 months and brought it to Jerusalem with sacrifice and dance.

**132:6** Ephrathah— Bethlehem but most believe The woods— Kirjath—Jearum was In the area and district of Bethlehem. 1 Sam 7:1

**132:7** Personal delight In fellowship and worship to God.

**132:11—12** God's faithfulness to His promise. 2 Sam 7:12

—Solomon's reign

**132:13** God's choosing of Zion makes it Special not any quality of its own.

**132:14—18** God 's promises

### **Psalm 133**

—Psalm pictures the pilgrims entering the city and the blessedness of natural and Spiritual unity one with God.

—vs—1 The proclamation

-vs—2—3 The illustration

**133:1** Behold— implies special attention good and pleasant— speaks of the natural benefits that result from unity. Phil 4:2, 1 Cor 1:13

**133:2** like precious oil- symbol of H.S. Aaron— High Priest, consecrated into the Lord Ex 30  
-every bit of his body was to be filled and under God's Spirit. Eph 5:18

**133:3** like the dew of Hermon —  
—refreshing. vitalizing  
—growth and protection against the elements.

### **Psalm 134**

—This is the last Psalm of Descents and the pilgrims are In the sanctuary at last.

—vs-1-2 Priestly chant

—vs—3 Priestly blessing

**134:1** Bless the Lord— too often we only want the Lord to bless us.

- 1) they are servants of the Lord
- 2) stand by night in the house of the Lord during the feast but certainly WI should practice this in our own li.

**134:2** 1) Lift up your hands— 1 Tim 2:8

1) symbol of longing

2) “ dependency

3) **II I'** surrender

2) in the sanctuary

a. At times people ask me why we don't more of this.

—We don't encourage an orchestrated

• mechanical ceremony but individual spontaneous response.

—we encourage decency and order so not to bring attention to oneself or distract others from worship.

B. At times people are inhibited because of the background they come out of can't lift their hands.

C. At other times people think if they haven't worked up a sweat and their emotions they have not worshipped or God wasn't present.

**131:3** Priest declares the benediction  
-Num 6:22—27

### **Psalm 135**

—Psalm of praise to God, called a “Hallelujah Psalm”  
—vs-1-2 call to praise God  
—vs—3—18 reason for praise  
—vs-19-21 call to bless God

**135:1—2** Priest directs the people to praise In the sanctuary.

**135:3—5** goodness of God to choose Jacob  
—special treasure—his possession 1 Pet 2:9  
—God is above all gods vs—15—18

. **135:8—12** God is sovereign and in control of nature and people  
\*Dan 4:35

**135:6—7** All powerful as creator

**135:8—14** God is known by history as the judge of man

**135:15—18** Ps 115:4—8 Idols are futile

**135:19—21** call to bless God

### **Psalm 136**

Psalm declaring the everlasting mercy of God

—In Jewish writings Ps 136 was known as “The Great Hallel?”

—This title Is also given to the group Ps 113— and Ps 148-150 by some

-vs—1-9 God the creator

—vs—10—26 God the redeemer

God’s mercy Is His steadfast love, the covenant relation He held with Israel.

\*The psalm was sung or recited in a response of the repeated phrase after each statement (antiphonal)

### **Psalm 137**

—Psalm of lament in their Babylonian captivity

—vs—1—3 Their sorrow and ridicule

—vs—4—6 Their love for Jerusalem

—vs—7—9 Their hate for Babylon

. **137:1** Often we do not know or appreciate what God has given or done for us until It is taken or lost.

-remembered— guilt and regret

**137:2** depressed arid melancholic

**137:3** scorn and mockery by their captives

**137:4** They don’t think it right In a pagan land

. **137:5—6** But it didn’t mean they had forgotten Jerusalem and would call upon severe punishment if they

did.

**137:7** Imprecatory prayer

—Edomites always attacked and cheered on those who come against Israel

**137:8—9** her just punishment

**Psalm 138**

—Psalm of praise to God in thanksgiving

-vs.—1—3 Personal praise

—vs—4—6 Kings praise

-vs—7—8 Protection praise

. **138:1—3** personal commitment of a whole heart after

God delivered him.

**138:2** God holds His word in high esteem above His name. 2 Tim 3:16-17

**138:3** God's faithfulness

138:8 God condescends to man

138:7 confident trust in His word

138:8 Phil 1:8

**Psalm 139**

-Psalm has been called 'The Crown of All The Psalms' dealing with some of God's attribute and how they relate to man's relationship t( God.

—vs-1-6 God's omniscience

-vs-7-12 God's omnipresence

—vs-13-18 God's sovereignty as Creator ~ and Savior

-vs-19—24 Closing petition against the wicked and searching of his heart

**139:1—2**

1) God knows his past

2) God knows his present failures and

victories

3) God knows his thoughts before

they are

formed.

**139:3—4** my habits and motive are not disguised by my words

**139:5—8** You are in control of my life

**139:7—8** The impossibility of *man* escaping the omni— presence of God

-hell— Sheol the place of departed spirits

**139:13—14** God's sovereign creative act in the womb with all the marvelous functions of the body.

**139:17** Jer 29:11

139:23 Phil 4:6-7

139:24 teachable