

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Made to Worship

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
July 16, 2023



### Why do we gather for worship?

Psalms 122 (NLT) A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup> And now here we are,

standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is a well-built city;

its seamless walls cannot be breached.

<sup>4</sup> All the tribes of Israel—the LORD’s people—

make their pilgrimage here.

They come to give thanks to the name of the LORD,  
as the law requires of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Here stand the thrones where judgment is given,  
the thrones of the dynasty of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for peace in Jerusalem.

May all who love this city prosper.

<sup>7</sup> O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls  
and prosperity in your palaces.

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my family and friends, I will say,

“May you have peace.”

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek what is best for you, O Jerusalem.

- **Worship fulfills our ultimate purpose.**

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Isaiah 45:18, 21b-22 For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. “I am the LORD,” he says, “and there is no other”... For there is no other God but me, a righteous God and Saviour.

There is none but me. <sup>22</sup> Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.

- **Worship nurtures our relationship with God.**

<sup>4</sup> All the tribes of Israel—the LORD’s people—make their pilgrimage here. They come to give thanks to the name of the LORD, as the law requires of Israel.

*Augustine wrote: “A Christian should be an alleluia from head to foot.”*

*“We can act our 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 - A Long Obedience*

- **Worship provides a necessary structure for life.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is a well-built city; its seamless walls cannot be breached.

<sup>4</sup> All the tribes of Israel—the LORD’s people—make their pilgrimage here.

- **Worship centres our heart on God’s will.**

<sup>5</sup> Here stand the thrones where judgment is given, the thrones of the dynasty of David.

### Does gathering for worship make any difference?

Psalms 122:6-9 (The Message)

Pray for Jerusalem’s peace!

Prosperity to all you Jerusalem-lovers!

Friendly insiders, get along!

Hostile outsiders, keep your distance!

For the sake of my family and friends,

I say it again: live in peace!

For the sake of the house of our God, God,

I’ll do my very best for you.

- **Worship results in peace (shalom) & prosperity (shalvah).**

**Big Idea: You were made to worship God, so worship to become whole.**

- **Make gathering for worship a priority.**

- **Come with the expectation to meet with Jesus.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

### Made to Worship

#3 of 11 - July 16, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at being faithful to the opportunity from Acts 3. What opportunities did the Lord put in your path this week and how did you respond to them? What action steps is the Lord asking you to take going forward?
- 2) Read Psalm 122. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we journey with God?
- 5) Read Isaiah 45:18-22. What does this passage tell us about the LORD and our response to Him?
- 6) In what ways does gathering for worship help us grow closer to God? What hinders us from gathering for worship, or hinders us from experiencing God when we do?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? Take some time to consider the following action steps. You were made to worship God, so worship to become whole.
- 8) How can you make gathering for worship a greater priority?
- 9) What can you do to come with the expectation to meet with Jesus when you gather for worship?



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