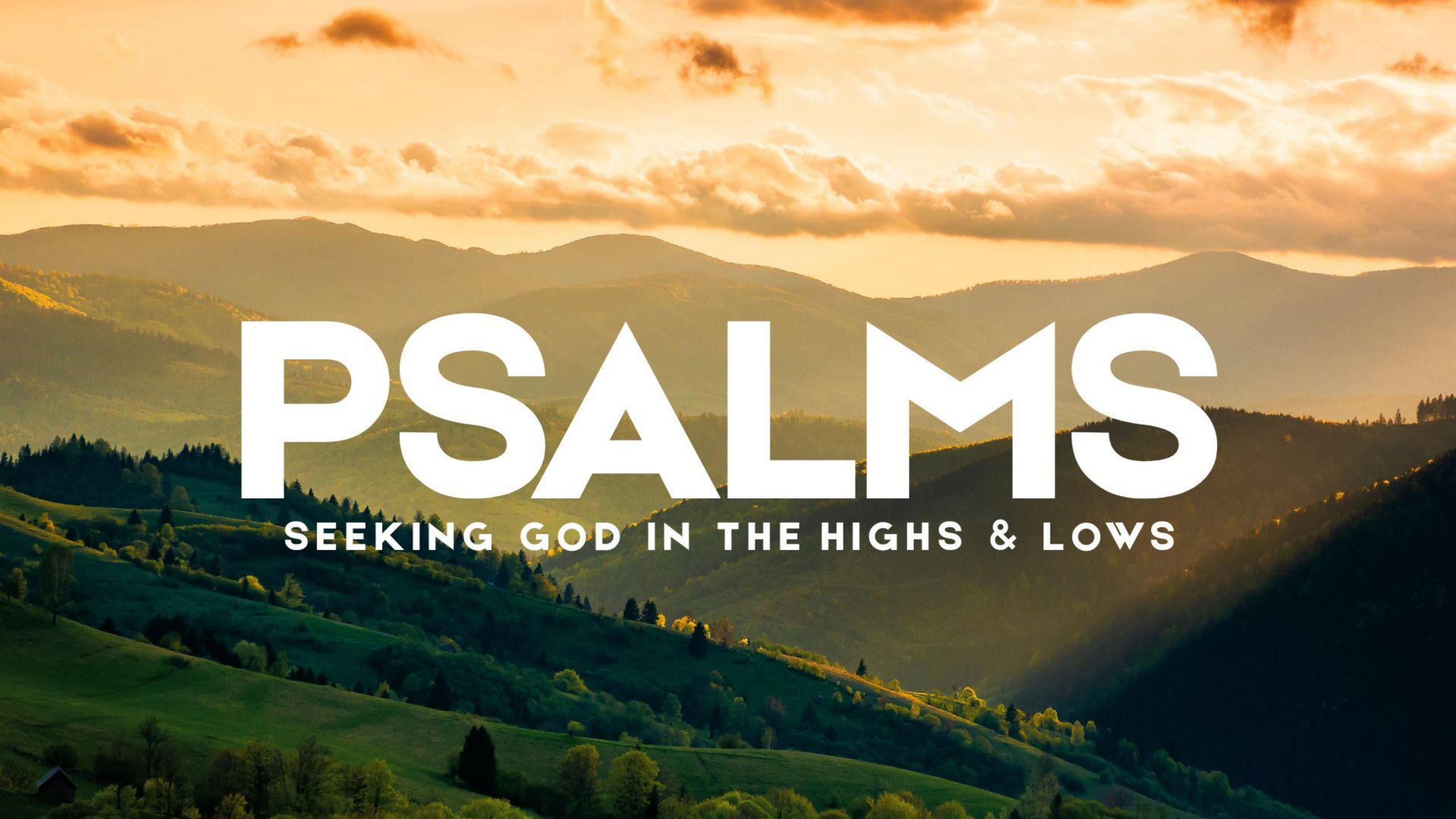




PSALMS

SEEKING GOD IN THE HIGHS & LOWS

Psalm 122

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

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

² Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

³ Jerusalem is built
As a city that is compact together,

⁴ Where the tribes go up,
The tribes of the LORD,

[a] To the Testimony of Israel,
To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces.”

⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, “Peace *be* within you.”

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God
I will seek your good.



Psalm 122

Coming to the House of the LORD
in the City of God

Today's Key Points...

- Gratefulness to God
- Importance of Jerusalem
- Joyful unity of God's people

Psalm 122

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!

Psalm 122

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

Significance of the Community of Believers:

A picture of the individual joining with the group to go into the house of the LORD. The invitation and the acceptance of it made him glad.

Psalm 122

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.' "

"Glad"

Definition:

1. "Feeling, or characterized by pleasure or joy; happy; pleased."
2. "Causing pleasure or joy; making happy."
3. "Very willing."
4. "bright or beautiful."

Psalm 122

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'"

"Glad"

Synonyms:

1. giddy
2. ecstatic
3. excited
4. enthusiastic
5. thrilled
6. elated
7. euphoric
8. rapturous
9. delighted
10. enraptured

Psalm 122

“Let us go into the house of the LORD”

- Coming to God’s house made David happy, though he knew that **no building could contain God in all His glory and greatness**. At the house of the LORD he could focus his thoughts, prayers, worship, and receiving of God’s word in the **community of God’s people** in a special way, and David was glad for that.
- Application to our lives: We should go into the house of the LORD. **It is good and important for us to gather with God’s people for prayers, worship, and receiving of God’s word.**
- Going into the house of the Lord should be God’s people coming together for His glory and their benefit in His house. This is important to God; it is His will.
- Not everything that happens at the house of the LORD must be fun, but it should all be good, both welcoming to the not-yet-believer and good for those who are believers in Jesus.
- If going to the house of the LORD is not a glad thing, the problem may be in the heart of the one who comes or it may have another source – but the problem should be prayerfully diagnosed and lovingly addressed. **Gut Check:** Today many don’t know the gladness David sang of, either because they don’t go into the house of the LORD, or because they do go and it isn’t a glad thing for them. Why might that be?

Psalm 122

- The very same God knows us well, He knows our struggles, He knows our joys; He is still Sovereign. He is still the Mighty God Who saves, heals and Who will deliver!
- As God's redeemed, have we still hope in our Redeemer? Shall we not be glad?
- What is the state of our heart and mind when we arrive for worship of the very same God of Psalm 122?

Psalm 122

- One of the four Songs of Ascents that is specifically attributed to King David.
- David may never have made a pilgrimage from a great distance to one of the major feasts, but he wrote Psalm 122 in the voice of one who did, and who had arrived at the Holy City.

Psalm 122

Pilgrimage Trip to Holy Feasts in Jerusalem

- “David wrote it for the people to sing at the time of their goings up to the holy feasts at Jerusalem...and appears to be suitable to be sung when the people had entered the gates, and their feet stood within the city.” (Charles Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

- David wrote Psalm 122, trusting in God's wisdom and plan, both for what Jerusalem was in his day, and for what it would become under his son and their successors.
- Boice reflected on David's possible motive in writing Psalm 122: "It is reasonable to suppose that he wrote it both to express joy in his new capital city and to encourage love for and loyalty toward it as the focal point of the nation's political life and worship."
- "That House was supreme in importance because it was the House of Jehovah. Jehovah, the God of Grace, is the One around Whom the people gather." (Morgan)

Psalm 122

- During David's days there was never a temple, but he knew one would be built, having extensively planned and prepared for it.

1 Chronicles 22:2-16:

2 David commanded to gather together the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. 3 David also provided great quantities of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing, 4 and cedar timbers without number, for the Sardonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David. 5 For David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, **and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it.**" So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.

- 14 With great pains I have provided for the house of the Lord **100,000 talents[a] of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add.** 15 You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working 16 gold, silver, bronze, and iron. **Arise and work! The Lord be with you!"**

Psalm 122

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[a] Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Psalm 122

- Jerusalem is built: David had conquered the city of Jerusalem, taking it from the Jebusites who held it as a Canaanite stronghold. David built the city in his own day, and David rejoiced in declaring, 'Jerusalem is built.'
- One of the reasons David conquered Jerusalem and established it as the capital of both the political and religious life of Israel was because it did not previously belong to a specific tribe, being under Canaanite occupation. Since it belonged to no tribe, it belonged to all the tribes, and the tribes of the LORD could come together as one at Jerusalem and the house of the LORD.
- “During David’s reign and for some time thereafter, Jerusalem was a small city located on the crest of Mount Zion and Mount Moriah, bounded on two sides by steep descents to the Kidron and Tyropaeon valleys, and thus no more than half a mile in breadth. It had a dramatic setting for one approaching it from a distance, and its **tight structure** would have impressed anyone observing it.” (Boice)
- “The expression ‘**bound firmly together**’ [compact together] uses...the same verb as is found in the instructions for making the tent of worship: ‘couple the tent together that it may be one whole’ (Exod. 26:11). Such was the blueprint; such will be the ultimate reality (Rev. 21:10ff.).” (Kidner)

Psalm 122

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- “You shall make fifty clasps of bronze, and put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together that it may be a single whole.” ~Exodus 26:11
- 10 “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.” ~Revelation 21:10-11

Psalm 122

- “A church should be one in creed and one in heart, one in testimony and one in service, one in aspiration and one in sympathy. They greatly injure our Jerusalem who would build dividing walls within her; she needs compacting, not dividing.” (Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

- “Note that Israel was one people, but yet it was in a sense divided by the mere surface distinction of tribes; and this may be a lesson to us that all Christendom is essentially one, though from various causes we are divided into tribes. Let us as much as possible sink the tribal individuality in the national unity, so that the church may be many waves, but one sea; many branches, but one tree; many members, but one body.” (Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

- Christians today should reflect this same unity even with their diversity.

“There is no such oneness in all the world as among true Christians; and this the very heathens observed and commended. **As the curtains of the tabernacle were joined by loops, so were they by love. And as the stones of the temple were so close cemented together that they seemed to be all but one stone, so was it among the primitive saints.” (Trapp)**

Psalm 122

To The “Testimony of Israel”

To the Testimony of Israel: This describes the **Ark of the Covenant**, which was often called by this title (Exodus 25:22, Exodus 27:21, Numbers 1:53). Representing the throne of God and His presence in Israel, the Testimony of Israel was the center of the tabernacle and later the temple.

Matthew Poole explained why the Ark of the Covenant was sometimes called the Testimony of Israel: “...the tables of the covenant [were] laid up in it, which are called God’s testimony, and the tables of the testimony.”

Psalm 122

- To give thanks to the name of the LORD: The primary purpose of the feasts of Israel was for the people of God to come together and give Him thanks. **Their appreciation for what He had done gave them faith for what He would do in the future.**
- “Note that the object of these pilgrim feasts was to give thanks, not primarily to seek unity or prosperity. These were gifts over and above the occasion, not its raison d’être (a reason for being or justification for existence); whereas pagan worship was all too blatantly a means to securing what one wanted: cf. Hosea 2:5.” (Kidner)
- “The unity of the city reflected the unity of the tribes on these special occasions. The Israelite tribes came together for the purpose of praising ‘the name of the Lord’. It was an act of loyalty, as the Lord had commanded them to present themselves before him.” (VanGemeren)

Psalm 122

5

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

Psalm 122

“For thrones are set there for judgment”

As the seat of government for Israel, Jerusalem was where Israel's main courts for judgment were established. Jerusalem was to be a city of justice, where good was honored and where evil was corrected.

These thrones were for dispensing judgment, and may have been visible at the gates of the city (Ruth 4:1-12, Matthew 19:28).

Psalm 122

“The thrones of the house of David”

- ❖ David's house was established to reign over Israel.
- ❖ Saul's house never reigned, supplying really only one king.
- ❖ David's lineage reigned in Jerusalem and will forever reign in the Messiah, the Son of David.

Psalm 122

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!”

Psalm 122

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

- David exhorted pilgrims coming to the Holy City to pray for the peace of the city. Jerusalem's name itself marks it as the city of peace (Hebrews 7:2), but in reality it has known much war and conflict, which continue to this day. It is good to pray for the often-elusive peace of Jerusalem.
- 2 “and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.” ~Hebrews 7:2

Psalm 122

“In a church one of the main ingredients of success is internal peace: strife, suspicion, party-spirit, division, – these are deadly things. Those who break the peace of the church deserve to suffer, and those who sustain it win a great blessing.”

(Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

“May they prosper who love you”

- David continued by giving a prayer for Jerusalem. The prayer included a blessing for those who love the city, and a direct request for peace and prosperity for the city.
- Kidner on peace and prosperity: “They are the proper fruits of justice, the subject of verse 5.”
- “The word ‘**prosper**’ conveys an idea which is not in the original. The Hebrew word means to be **secure, tranquil, at rest**, spoken especially of **one who enjoys quiet prosperity**: Job 3:26; 12:6. The essential idea is that of quietness or rest; and the meaning here is, that **those who love Zion will have peace**.” (Barnes, cited in Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

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.

Psalm 122

“For the sake of my brethren and companions”

David prayed for blessings for those who loved and prayed for Jerusalem, but the blessing was not only for the individual but for the community of those who cared for the peace of Jerusalem, those who said, “Peace be within you.”

“The repetition of the desire displays the writer’s high valuation of the blessing mentioned; he would not again and again have invoked peace had he not perceived its extreme desirableness.” (Spurgeon)

Psalm 122

“ Because of the house of the LORD our God”

David understood that the gladness and goodness of the pilgrim toward God's city was not primarily political in nature. It wasn't because of loyalty to a political party, leader, or philosophy. It was because the house of the LORD was established there.

Psalm 122

- “The Psalmist declareth the two motives, which induced him to utter his best wishes, and use his best endeavours, for the prosperity of Jerusalem; namely, love of his brethren, whose happiness was involved in that of their city; and love of God, who had there fixed the **residence of His glory**.”
(Horne)
- “Through it all it is evident that the glory of city and Temple consists in the fact that they are the City and House of Jehovah. It is not a song of buildings or of material magnificence. It is rather **the song of assembly, of testimony, of judgment, of peace, of prosperity**. These all issue from the supreme fact of **Jehovah's presence**.”
(Morgan)

Psalm 122

This has a special application for the Christian under the New Covenant. For us, the Church is the house of the LORD, with Jesus the Head and Son of the house (Hebrews 3:5-6, Hebrews 10:21, 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Peter 4:17). **What makes the Church special is that it is God's habitation, His house. His presence makes it special.**

Ancient Jerusalem had political, economic, and social importance. Yet the most important reason to love and care for Jerusalem was because of the house of the LORD. Christians should have the same great care for and focus upon the work of God's house.

I will seek your good: Just as it was good for pilgrims in Israel to seek the good of Jerusalem for the sake of God's house, so Christians today can and should seek the good of others for the sake of God's house.

Psalm 122

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!

"First we love it (Psalm 122:6) and then we labour for it, as in this passage: we see its good, and then seek its good." (Spurgeon)

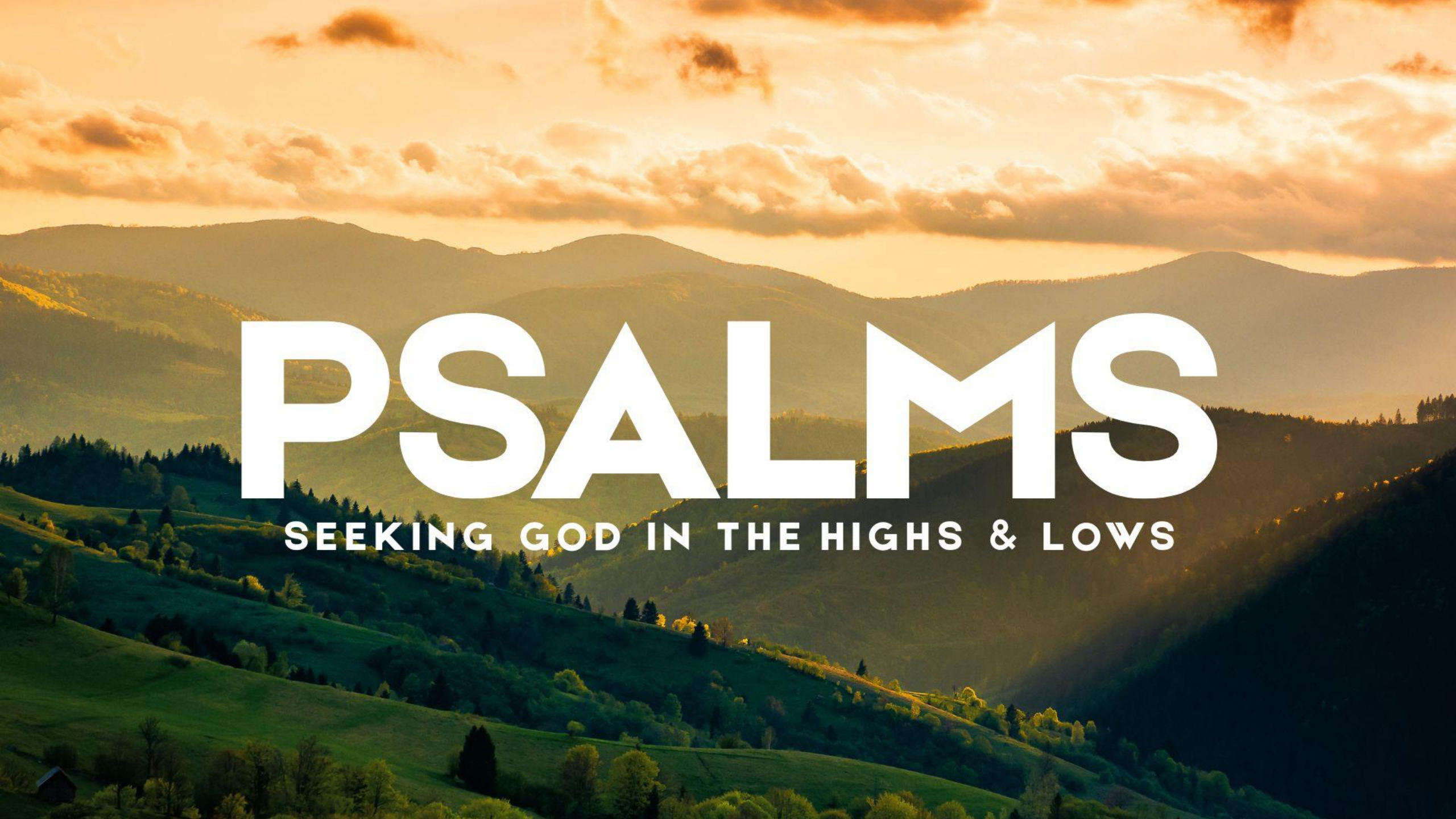
Psalm 122: “Why should this matter to me?”

- ✓ The importance of unity in the life of the Believer and the Church.
- ✓ The importance of expressing our gratitude to God for all He has done and will do in the future.
- ✓ The significance of the Believer's loyalty to God displayed by following Him in obedient faith.
- ✓ The priority of gratefulness and prayer in our lives, for fellow Believers, for the Church, and for Jerusalem.
- ✓ The significance of Jerusalem, past, present and future (Revelation 21:10-11).



Psalm 122

Coming to the House of the LORD
in the City of God



PSALMS

SEEKING GOD IN THE HIGHS & LOWS



Psalm 122

Coming to the House of the LORD
in the City of God

A shepherd wearing a white robe and a head covering stands in a field of sheep. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the landscape. The shepherd is holding a staff and looking towards the camera. The sheep are scattered across the field, some in the foreground and some in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and pastoral.

God's Shepherding Care

- Guidance
- Provision
- Protection
- Concern