

PSALM 122

The authorship of this psalm has a bearing on its interpretation. The Hebrew text ascribes it to David, whereas most manuscripts of the Septuagint do not. Neither does the Vulgate. Verse 9 focuses on the crucial question: Since the temple was built in Solomon's time, how can David refer to it? But let us remember that the old Tabernacle is repeatedly called the House of Yahweh, and also that David restored the ark to its place of central importance almost as soon as he established Jerusalem as his capital. If the psalm had been written some twenty years after the placement of the ark, the coming of the tribes to the sanctuary could easily be referred to as a tradition. Psalm 122 is a song of praise as well as a prayer for prosperity for Yahweh's chosen city, Jerusalem.

A Song of Ascents, of David.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of YAHWEH."
- 2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem,
- 3 Jerusalem, that is built as a city that is compact together;
- 4 to which the tribes go up, even the tribes of YAHWEH—an ordinance for Israel—
to give thanks to the name of YAHWEH.
- 5 For there thrones were set for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces."
- 8 For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, "May peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of YAHWEH our God, I will seek your good.

PRAYER

We praise you, O Yahweh our God, for your mighty works on behalf of Israel, your chosen people. Turn their hearts, that they might recognize and embrace their Messiah, the Lord Jesus, who gave himself a sacrifice and ransom for sin. All who put their faith in him shall be saved. None will be turned away. The day is coming soon when all mankind shall stand before your throne to give an account of their works. Those who have spurned the straight and narrow path shall reap their reward of eternal destruction, while those who have cast their faith on Christ's blood only shall reap eternal life. You take no delight in the death of the wicked but would have all come to repentance. Enable us, we pray, to spread the good news to all nations before the day comes when the day for repentance has passed by. And keep our eyes ever open for that day when Jesus comes again, this time to receive his kingdom and reign from Jerusalem, his holy city, and when we shall have the great privilege to behold his glory. We ask in his name. Amen.