

Singing the Psalms of Ascent

The Inextinguishable Light of the World

Easter Sunday: **Psalm 132**

April 12, 2020

Today's Big Idea:

The looked-forward-to Messiah would be a lamp, a horn, and a shining crown,
and all of this came to full realization in the resurrection of Jesus!

Psalm 132

- We conclude today our pilgrimage with the Psalms of Ascent as we reach the pinnacle!
- A Royal Psalm: written for or by the king, declaring God's favor
- A Song of Zion, affirming the Mt. Zion temple as God's earthly throne
- A circular structure in its request for divine favor (**v. 1**)
- David established the Temple (**v.1-5**), God (from His Temple!) establishes David's line (**v. 11-12**)

A Messianic Psalm

- God's promise to David becomes the promise of Messiah: **see 2 Samuel 7:12-13**
- The word "anointed one" (v. 10,17) in Hebrew is "Messiah", translated as "Christ" in Greek
- The angelic announcement to Mary captures this: **Luke 1:32**
- Zechariah declares the fulfilment of Psalm 132 at the angel's visit in **Luke 1:69**
- Peter quotes God's oath to David in his post-resurrection sermon: **see Acts 2:30**
- We can see in Psalm 132 Messianic prophecy which anticipates the resurrection
- The last two verses present three interrelated symbols: horn, lamp, crown
- Three symbols which find their fullest Messianic realization in the resurrection of Jesus

The Horn as Power

- Trumpet, flask of oil, altar corners, horns on the ox,
- Strength and power (**Deut 33:17; Dan 8:9; Psalm 75:10; Jeremiah 48:25; Luke 1:69**)
- Sprouting: growing, coming into being, like an animal's horn

- **The Lamp as Life**

- Often lamp/light is synonymous with life itself: **2 Samuel 21:17; John 1:4**
- Or the living healthy active rule of David's line: **1 Kings 11:36**
- Light as synonymous with life originates in **Genesis 1:3**
- The Menorah in the Temple, reminiscent of the Tree of Life: **see Genesis 3:22; Rev 22:2**
- Kept lit through the night (night and death are linked: **John 13:30; Rev 22:5**): **Leviticus 24:1-3**

Journey Signs: Lament as a Map > Wrapped in the Coat of God's Keeping > Our Feet on a Rock > Sweet Drink from the Canteen > An Apple on the Tree > The Sure and Steady Compass > The Clear Walkie-Talkie > The Bright Lamp

- The Crown as **Authority**
- The familiar symbol on the head of the King

The Stage is Set

- Satan is the ruler of this world, Jesus concedes in **John 14:30**
- His death appeared to be the extinguishing of His light and life
- No doubt the powers of darkness rejoiced, for a moment
- As promised in Psalm 132, they experienced the greatest humiliation: **see verse 17**
- They would not have crucified the Lord of Glory had they known! **1 Corinthians 2:8**
- The story of the Trojan Horse for real!

The Resurrection of Jesus brings together the horn, the crown, and the lamp!

- The **horn** as the demonstration of Power: beating the last enemy: death! (**1 Cor 15:26**)
- Jesus has the keys to death and Hades: **Revelation 1:17-18**
- Raised by the power of the Father (**Acts 2:24**), the Son (**John 10:18**), Spirit (**Rom 1:4, 8:11**)
- Winning the **crown** of ultimate authority as the Son of Man: **Matthew 28:18**
- Winning it back from the Usurper, who stole the authority in the Garden of Eden
- Ascended to the right hand of God, the place of authority: **Acts 7:55**
- The **lamp** overcomes and destroys the very fabric of the darkness of death
- Jesus said He was the Light of the World and here He proves it! **John 8:12**
- Revelation 22:23: the Lamb as the Lamp (same Greek word as 132:17)
- Offering eternal inextinguishable life to all Who will come to humbly receive it! **John 1:12**

Life for Us on This Side of the Resurrection

- We have an unbelievable power source in our broken vessels: **2 Corinthians 4:7**
- We are ambassadors of His with delegated authority to use His name: **John 14:13**
- We have eternal life already in us (what is there to lose?!): **See Romans 8:31-39**
- We are walking lamps, not generating light, but showing off His light in us: **Matthew 5:14**
- Our final symbol of our pilgrimage is the lantern!

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