



## Approaching God

### Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passage.

## Psalm 122

### Passage Introduction:

"If you go to God's house, many thoughts may enter your head, but I wonder whether one of them is, "This is almost as exciting as falling in love"? The feeling of falling in love is in a Taylor Swift song, the poetry of *Romeo and Juliet*, or the buzz of Valentine's Day, but it is rarely what people think of when they go to church."

Josh Moody - *Journey to Joy*

"Psalm 122 is the song of a person who decides to go to church and worship God. It is a sample of the complex, diverse and worldwide phenomenon of worship that is common to all Christians. It is an excellent instance of what happens when a person worships."

Eugene Peterson - *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

## Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Read the passage slowly 2 or 3x's.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

**Psalm 122 - A Song of Ascents (NIV)** - **1** I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." **2** Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. **3** Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. **4** That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the LORD— to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. **5** There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. **6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. **7** May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." **8** For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." **9** For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

## Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What can you learn about worship from this passage?
- How does this passage push against the individualistic mindset that we sometimes have about our relationship with God?

- Look at vs. 5 - The biblical word *judgment* means “the decisive word by which God straightens things out and puts things right.” Thrones for judgment are the places that word is announced. Eugene Peterson says, “Judgment is not a word *about* things, describing them; it is a word that *does* things, putting love in motion, applying mercy, nullifying wrong, ordering goodness.” How is worship a catalyst for us to begin putting things right in the world around us?

## Psalm 122

### Passage Summary - (From The ESV Transformation Bible)

With the pilgrims’ journey of Psalm 121 complete, these followers of Yahweh now stand within the gates of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:1-2). How glad they are to be in this place, this city and temple that mark the covenant promises of God to his own people!

Among the most precious of those promises is God’s declaration to David that he would forever have a son (i.e., descendant) sitting on the throne of Israel (see 2 Sam. 7:12–13). As the tribes of Israel ascend to Jerusalem, they acknowledge the special place the tribe of Judah plays in the outworking of God’s covenant promises. They praise God for the throne of David that will not fail (Ps. 122:3–5). Yet these pilgrims realize the opposition Jerusalem and its king have faced. They pray for peace for this covenantal city, for the temple and for the throne that reside within (vv. 6–9). All of this reminds us that the line of the kings of David came to an abrupt end with the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

Yet this was not the final end! No, indeed, for God has brought forth the Greater Son of David, born of Mary, to take that throne and once again to reign over Jerusalem and all of the earth (see Luke 1:31–33). So what the pilgrims of old longed to see we now understand is fulfilled in the coming of Christ. Though the fullness of his reign is yet to be displayed, the certainty of it has been established—the King of Israel and of all the earth has come!

### Key Takeaway:

As you read today’s passage, what are 1 or 2 main takeaways that you wrote down that you want to take with you? How would you briefly summarize your observations and meditations for today?

### Close in Prayer:

Close by turning today’s Psalm into your own prayer. What verses or themes stand out to you that you want to pray through? Take some time to take those these and pray them out loud in your own words. For example look at vs 6-7, “May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” Who can you pray for today to experience the love, security, and peace of God?