



## 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 132 - Obedience

**Passage Introduction:**

We want a Christian faith that has stability but is not petrified, that has vision but is not hallucinatory. How do we get both the sense of stability and the spirit of adventure, the ballast of good health and the zest of true sanity? How do we get the adult maturity to keep our feet on the ground and retain the childlike innocence to make the leap of faith? Psalm 132 is one of the oldest psalms in the Bible. It was included in the Songs of Ascents to develop just those aspects of life under God and as disciples of Christ.

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 132 - A Song of Ascents (NLT) - 1** LORD, remember David and all that he suffered. **2** He made a solemn promise to the LORD . He vowed to the Mighty One of Israel, **3** "I will not go home; I will not let myself rest. **4** I will not let my eyes sleep nor close my eyelids in slumber **5** until I find a place to build a house for the LORD, a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel." **6** We heard that the Ark was in Ephrathah; then we found it in the distant countryside of Jaar. **7** Let us go to the sanctuary of the LORD ; let us worship at the footstool of his throne. **8** Arise, O LORD, and enter your resting place, along with the Ark, the symbol of your power. **9** May your priests be clothed in godliness; may your loyal servants sing for joy. **10** For the sake of your servant David, do not reject the king you have anointed. **11** The LORD swore an oath to David with a promise he will never take back: "I will place one of your descendants on your throne. **12** If your descendants obey the terms of my covenant and the laws that I teach them, then your royal line will continue forever and ever." **13** For the LORD has chosen Jerusalem ; he has desired it for his home. **14** "This is my resting place forever," he said. "I will live here, for this is the home I desired. **15** I will bless this city and make it prosperous; I will satisfy its poor with food. **16** I will clothe its priests with godliness; its faithful servants will sing for joy. **17** Here I will increase the power of David; my anointed one will be a light for my people. **18** I will clothe his enemies with shame, but he will be a glorious king."

## Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- Eugene Peterson points out that the first half of Psalm 132 is the part that roots obedience in fact and keeps our feet on the ground? Where do you see that happening in the text?
- The second half of Psalm 132 takes seriously what God said to David and how David responded (matters that are remembered in the ark narrative) and uses them to make a vision of the reality that is in the future of faith. How would you describe that vision in your words?

### Psalm 132

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

The background to Psalm 132 is 2 Samuel 7, where David expressed to Nathan his longing to build a house (i.e., temple) where the ark of the covenant would dwell (2 Sam. 7:2; Ps. 132:1–5). God revealed to Nathan that, while the temple would later be built, God had made a covenant with David that he would have a son (i.e., a descendant) who would sit on his throne forever (2 Sam. 7:12–13; Ps. 132:8–12). The pilgrims ascending to the temple in Jerusalem remind themselves, through this psalm, that God had chosen to show his favor to David, and to the city of Jerusalem where the kingship of David's Son would be manifest (Ps. 132:13–18).

But what those pilgrims of old longed for, we now have seen! Their longings were fulfilled in Jesus! When the angel Gabriel came to Mary to reveal to her that she was chosen to give birth to the long-awaited Messiah, Gabriel reminded Mary that, “the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32–33). Surely God is faithful to his promise; he keeps his word. Both in the coming of Christ and in the gospel that announces what Christ has accomplished, God demonstrates that he is absolutely and unequivocally faithful.

#### 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:

Today's Psalm is the longest included in the Psalms of Ascent. Today simply take 2 or 3 phrases or verses that were significant to you as you read, meditated, and studied and pray through them. Offer a heart of obedience in response to God's grace as you close in prayer.