"The Joy of Worshiping
With God's People"

Psalm 122
January 18, 2026

The Big Idea: David expresses the sheer joy of gathering with the people of God in worship. In his joyful reflections we see what God wants His Church to be: a place of spiritual unity; a community of grateful people; a commitment to God's authority over our lives; and, people who live in the peace that only God can give.

The Occasion of the Psalm

- This is one of only a few of the Psalms of Ascent (120-134) that has attribution. King David wrote this song (psalm) of joyful worship.
- Question: If David wrote this and the Temple isn't built until Solomon and the city itself is probably still being developed, how could David be the author? Answer: David writes prophetically, imagining what the pilgrim experience will be like for those that travel up to Jerusalem. Most importantly, David writes out of the rich and deep experiences of personal worship that have defined his life and relationship with the Lord since he was a boy!

Psalm 122 (ESV)

122 A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

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!

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 Israel,
to give thanks to the *name of the LORD*.
5 There thrones for judgment were set,
the thrones of the house of David.

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!"
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.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR LIVES

- God calls you into a covenant relationship with Him through Jesus.
- The Church is to be the place where all the "tribes" of the world come together and, by the Holy Spirit, are made One.
- The generosity of the Lord in our lives should result in nothing less than endless gratitude for who He is and what He has done.
- We look to God in all things for His declarations of judgment. The Lord's word is the final word on life.
- God has done everything necessary for us to have peace. "Praying for the peace of Jerusalem" isn't a political position or a particular point of eschatology. It is a discipline of the mind and heart in praying that people will be saved by grace through faith in Jesus.
- Every Christian should be seeking the good that the Lord desires for His people and His Church.

"The church is an embassy of heaven. When someone steps in to the community of the church, they should experience the culture of heaven: where every wrong will be made right. Where pain is dealt with, not stuffed. It is where we see past racial barriers & socio-economic status. It is the place of peace.
Alex Gailey