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Episode 137 - Entering Jerusalem Inside: Psalm 122 and the Family of God

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Hey friend — join Scott Stanley as he walks through Psalm 122 and shows how Jerusalem, the house of God, is really a spiritual mindset you can enter right now. It's a warm, down-to-earth look at the cross, the Holy Spirit, and what it means to belong to God's family.

Simple, honest, and practical — you'll hear how the scriptures invite us to "ascend" inwardly, stay rooted in love, and let the Spirit reshape your heart so you can bear real fruit in everyday life.

Modified Transcript:

This transcript has been edited. Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. We're continuing our podcast concerning the book of Revelation. But you know, when you talk about Revelation, you're talking about every aspect of your Christianity, actually. Today, I want to focus on Psalm 122.

If you'll look at the beginning, the top of Psalm 122, you'll see it's called "A Song of Degrees." There are fifteen psalms labeled songs of degrees. What does that even mean? "Degrees" can also mean "ascent, to ascend." If you want to look these words up, the part you've got to understand is we're reading this through the eyes of the Spirit sent down from heaven.

I know I could turn back and read these Psalms and try to look at them literally... this is a song they would sing on the way to a feast. Three times a year, they were called to a feast, and these are the songs they would sing ascending to Jerusalem. Well, in my mind, ascending to Jerusalem is spiritual. And what I'm reading in the Old Testament, I believe everything in the Old Testament has a spiritual meaning to it. This is no different.

It's important that we lay this foundation for a song of degrees, so that we can apply this concept to the other fifteen psalms that are called this, because they have a meaning that makes it right now. See, if you look at something literally, it has happened then, or it will happen soon. But if you look at it spiritually, it's right now. It could be happening within the human heart right now.

So I pray that the Lord bless us here, that we come away enlightened, because when I was looking at this psalm, there were so many things that were tied to this that applied to our Christianity. We need to get our Christianity straight. We need to get it understood. We don't need to have any doubt or any struggles with the teachings when the gospel goes to all the world, because it will create chaos called a tribulation. And as Jesus told us, there's never been a time so bad since the creation of the world (Mat 24:21).

So I'm reading today Psalm 122, but to begin this, I want to turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 14. This is something all of us have probably memorized, but I just want to lay this foundation before I get to Psalm 122.

Jhn 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me.

Jhn 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions (that word is not 'mansion.' It's 'an abiding place.') In my Father's house are many abiding places. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jhn 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and I will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

So when I look at verse 2, *"In my Father's house there are many abiding places,"* I want to connect this with the book of Hebrews, chapter 3, verse 1.

Heb 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Heb 3:2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Heb 3:3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who has builded the house has more honor than the house.

Heb 3:4 Every house is builded by some one, but he that built all things is God.

Heb 3:5 Moses truly was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Heb 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

When we read *"the rejoicing of the hope,"* what is our hope? Our hope is the glory of God. We live in hope that through God's workmanship, he will make us into the image of his only begotten Son. And that is a work that happens inwardly. For him to say in these texts I just read that we are the house, he's not talking about a literal house. The house he is speaking of concerning Moses and Christ was their family. It's the family. The house of Christ is the family of God. Moses' house.... see, it's his family. It's not a literal physical building.

That's why in John 14, *"In my Father's house are many abiding places,"* King James put "mansions" because they were literal in their thinking. We're talking about the house of God, the family of God. Being brought into the family of God, you will remain in that house. You'll be a part of his house as long as you hold forth that hope firm unto the end.

Well, the hope again is that he's making you into the image of his only begotten Son, who is the image of the invisible God, the fullness of the Godhead bodily. So what do you think Psalm 122 is about? First verse,

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of Jehovah.

See, you've got to get your mind off of this literal-ism and trained on spiritual meaning. To be called unto the house of God- that doesn't mean, "Will you go to church with me this week?" Anytime you invite someone to your church, you're in hope that they will become a part of the family of God. To be part of the family of God, I believe that is what this psalm is speaking of.

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of Jehovah.

Psa 122:2 Our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Now, again, this podcast isn't for a beginner. When we read about Jerusalem, I'm not talking about that literal city. I'm talking about heavenly Jerusalem. Feet are a symbol of the direction of your mind. And if I make this spiritual, *our feet, our minds stand within your gates, O Jerusalem*. It's spiritual. And when I saw that, it was like it just lifted my heart to realize I can be anywhere on this planet, but my feet can be standing within the gates of Jerusalem.

When I read gates, I think of the twelve gates going into that city, each having the name of the children of Israel. It's talking about the Bible. *The gates of hell will not prevail* (Mat 16:18), meaning the way they interpret the Bible is not going to prevail. *Lift ye up the gates and let the King of glory come in* (Psa 24:7, 9). See, you lift the eyes of your understanding. You read the scripture, and you let God minister to you right now. *God is Spirit; you worship him in spirit and in truth* (Jhn 4:24)

This is how he can come to you and not to another person. Jesus and the Father can come to you because it's spiritual, and another person won't see it. Another person will be asking, "Give me proof of God." Well, the proof is you've made a decision to walk in God's commandments of loving him and loving your neighbor. When you do that, the Father and the Son will come to you in the truth.

It is spiritual. And they will abide with you and bring truth to you that will help you to walk in love, which, honestly, is what all of this is about. The whole Bible is about that very concept.

See, you've got to remember, there are two commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. If I'm going to love God, then I'm going to love my neighbor as myself. That's how you love God, Galatians 5:14. All of the commandments are summed up in loving your neighbor as yourself. That's how I manifest love to God. So,

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said, Let's go to the family of God. (Let's come up to God's family. If I do that,)

Psa 122:2 Our feet will stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem (because that is where the family of God abides).

Remember Colossians 3:1.

Col 3:1 If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 Because you're dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then you'll appear with him in glory.

See, you set your mind on things above. *I was glad when they said unto me, let's go to the family, because our feet will stand in that holy city, in that mindset.* One more, Philippians 3:20.

Php 3:20 For our conversation (that word conversation is community) ... Our community is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Look at the promise.)

Php 3:21 Who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working whereby he's able even to subdue all things unto himself.

If he can change your vile body to be like his, he can most certainly change your mind, redeem your thinking, help you see a higher thing. So,

Psa 122:2 Our feet will stand within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said, Let's go to the family of God (because this is where they dwell).

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem (this is new Jerusalem) is builded as a city that is compact

together.

That points back to Genesis 2. How? Let me show you. In Genesis 2, verse 21,

Gen 2:21 Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam...

What you're reading here, I'm going to tell you before we go through it. This is spiritual, and he is talking about Christ on the cross. I'm going to read a verse to you out of the New Testament that points to that. After God brings the woman to the man, and the woman is the Holy Spirit, Genesis 2:23,

Gen 2:23 Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh: and she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of the Man.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Well, that is simply quoted in Ephesians 5. And this is where you see the spiritual meaning of it.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. (See, simply quoting what we just read from Genesis. But Ephesians 5:32 says)

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: But I'm speaking concerning Christ and the church.

So it's obvious what we're reading in Genesis 2 has a much deeper meaning than just simply what we've been told about Adam and Eve. We're looking at a spiritual truth.

Gen 2:21 Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon (the second) Adam, and he slept. He took one of Adam's sides and closed up that side with flesh instead.

What is he even talking about? It's Ezekiel 36, where this is explained to us.

Eze 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water upon you (that's the truth... "sprinkle" is "to teach"). I'm going to give you clean water.

What is it that comes out from the throne? Revelation 22:1- *Pure water, clear as crystal, flows from the bottom of that throne.* The throne is the conscience.

Eze 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you'll be clean; from all your filthiness, from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Eze 36:26 A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you. I'm going to take away that stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I'll put my spirit within you, and I will cause you to walk in my statutes, and you'll keep my judgments, and you'll do them.

So when I read in Psalms 122, *"Jerusalem is builded,"* for me, it goes right back to Genesis 2:21.

Gen 2:21 Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall on the second Adam, and he slept (he died): and he took one of his sides, and closed it up with the flesh instead.

You see, Jesus' death was our death. He was portraying you. And this is what happens when you can receive the meaning of the cross and spiritually enter into his death on that cross. Through the meaning of the cross, God gives us a heart of flesh.

Gen 2:22 And the side, which Jehovah God took from that man, builded he a woman (an emotional side).

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." That emotional side of God is the Holy Spirit. He builds that woman and brings her to the man. He is giving you the truth. He is giving you an understanding of the cross. It's called the Holy Spirit. So when I read Psalm 122:3, Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit... Jerusalem is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the city of God, the mind of God, the way God thinks. It needs to be "builded" within us. Jerusalem is "builded." It is a city, a mindset that is compact together.

Well, this word "compact" is [2266]. If you look this verse up in the Hebrew, you're going to discover that there are two words there. The first one is [7945]. The second one is [2266]. [7945] means "to be drawn out." [2266] means "to be joined together or coupled together." You could say married.

See, you are to marry the Holy Spirit. But if you'll compare Proverbs chapter 3,

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that finds wisdom (or the meaning of the cross), and the man that draws out God's understanding (the Holy Spirit; God's understanding from the cross).

Pro 3:14 The merchandise of that is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain more than fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She's more precious than rubies: all things that you can desire are not to be compared unto her.

Pro 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand riches and honor.

Pro 3:17 Her ways are pleasantness. All of her paths are peace.

Pro 3:18 She's a tree of life...

Pro 3:19 Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth. By his understanding, he establishes the heavenly truth.

Pro 3:20 And by his knowledge, the abyss is broken up, and the church drops down the dew. The clouds can drop the dew.

There is a drawing out of the truth of the cross that we're talking about here. So a person would be glad; they would be rejoicing to be called to the family of God because it is only God's family who can enter into these truths because they have accepted the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the truth of those things.

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, Let's go to God's family,

Psa 122:2 Where our feet (the direction of my mind) are going to stand within the gates of the Holy Spirit of Jerusalem.

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem, that Holy Spirit, it's builded like a city that is drawn out and then coupled together with you.

We're talking about some pretty deep spiritual things here. If you can hear this and receive it and enter into it and be part of the family of God.... See this next verse in Psalm 122,

Psa 122:4 Where the tribes go up, the tribes of Jehovah...

Well, this word "tribe" is also the branches. See, when you look at the branches of a tree, the tribes, all the different families coming together... their lineage coming together, the tribes go up. Well, "go up" is to "ascend." Don't ever forget, never forget Revelation 7. A messenger is ascending from the east. He has the seal of God. He has a basic understanding that God is love. He has never, never condemned you.

So we're going to have to read the scripture and put the seal on that: This is the way God would interpret that. And that seal, the meaning of God's love, redeems your thinking of all these Bible verses, what they actually mean. He seals 144,000 servants of God. Those servants of God are the truths he is giving us. The tribes ascend. The tribes ascend; the branches ascend.

I was going to try to read this without getting into John 15, but I can't help myself. In John 15,

Jhn 15:1 I am the true vine. My father is the husbandman.

Jhn 15:2 Every branch in me... (See, this is where the branches ascend in this holy city.) Every branch in me that will not bear fruit, he's taken away.

If you're going to be a part of that family, if you're going to dwell in the holy city, you have to ascend in your thinking into that truth. And if you cannot do that, you will not bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Jhn 15:2 Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he will take away. And every branch that will bear fruit, he'll purge it, so that it may bring forth more fruit.

Jhn 15:3 Right now, you're clean through the concepts I've spoken unto you.

Jhn 15:4 So remain in me, and I'm in you (through my word). The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it remain in the vine; no more can you, except you remain in me.

Jhn 15:5 I'm the vine, you're the branch. He that remains in me, and I in him, the same will bring forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.

Jhn 15:6 If a man remain not in me, he's cast forth as a branch. He withers, and other people will gather him up (into their church, into their philosophy, into their thinking), and cast them into the fire, and they will be burned. (That fire is Gehenna fire.)

Jhn 15:7 If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.

Jhn 15:8 In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit...

Jhn 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you: remain in my love.

Jhn 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love.

Jhn 15:11 These things I have spoken, that you might have joy, that your joy might remain, that your joy might be full.

Jhn 15:12 This is my commandment. Love one another as I have loved you.

Jhn 15:13 Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

As you read John 15, in fact, as we read anything that Christ is speaking about, two commandments: *Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.* How do I love God? I love God by loving my neighbor as myself. What he is speaking of is love. *Without me, you can do nothing.* What he is speaking about is loving another person. This is what the whole thing is about: that you bear much fruit.

It doesn't mean that you make a lot of money, and you get a better car, and you don't ever get sick. That's not what he's talking about. He is talking about being able to walk in the love of God. That is why Jesus died on the cross. Without him, you cannot do that. You have got to have an understanding of the cross if you're going to bear much fruit. When you bear much fruit, you glorify the Father.

God is love, and this is what he is trying to bring into our lives, where we can find death to self and walk in love toward everybody in our lives. So you don't read this with anything else in mind. *"If you keep my commandments, you'll remain in my love,"* he says (Jhn 15:10). Well, this is really- this is what it's all about. Can you remain in love? Can you continue to have long-suffering, graciousness, compassion, and kindness toward everybody on the planet? This is what he has called you to do. Receive the Spirit of the Father and remain in love. Psalm 122:4, this holy city,

Psa 122:4 This is where the tribes (the people of God) ascend unto the testimony of Israel...

Remember the testimony of God? He said, *"Jesus is my Son. You are my Son."* The testimony of Jesus, both of the Father's and the Son's testimonies are in Psalm 2, where

the Son says, *"He said unto me, I'm his Son."* Well, what do you think the testimony of Israel would be? That he is the Son of God. Notice, the tribes, the family of God, ascend unto the testimony.

It isn't just simply some intellectual thing. Because when you can understand and receive into your heart that he is the only begotten Son of God, and you see why that matters as you bring the truth of the Father into your heart... he really is the Father of Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is the "logos" of God. He was a concept in the mind of God of how to help us walk in love and be free from anger, resentment, and so on... guilt and shame.

This is how it's done, and by means of the cross, you see the problems that we've all had, and you see how you die to self.

Psa 122:5 This is where the thrones of judgment are set down...

I can't read that without Matthew 19. Look at Matthew 19. I'm going to start at verse 27.

Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed you. What shall we have therefore?

Mat 19:28 Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, The apostles, you which have followed me in the regeneration of truth, when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The twelve tribes of Israel are the scriptures. They are the ones who wrote it... the apostles, sitting on twelve thrones (or the conscience), determining, judging what the scriptures are. That is exactly what they did. The apostles could take the Old Testament, interpret it, and create a thing called the New Testament, an explanation of the Old Testament. They were judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

When I look at Psalm 122, it is here in this holy city that the tribes ascend to the testimony of Israel (and the apostles in Isaiah 49 are referred to as Israel). They are the Israel of God because Israel is the person who knows Jesus is the Son of God, and they sat on the thrones of judgment, judging the house of David, which is the house of Israel, the family.

Psa 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: (Pray for the shalom, the wholeness of Jerusalem). They shall prosper that love the Holy Spirit...

They that love the information God has given us concerning humanity and given us the prayer to pray, committing our spirit to God. *Pray for the fullness, the wholeness of Jerusalem.*

Psa 122:7 Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your gates.

"Prosperity" is "to draw out what is needed." Again, we're drawing out. There's nothing about salvation where you just sit back and do nothing. Yeah, it's by grace that he's going to give you the truth. *For by grace, you are saved through faith, what you're being taught. That is a gift of God* (Eph 2:8). But when he gives you the truth, you are to draw out of the cross God's understanding. You draw out what is needed for your salvation.

Psa 122:8 For my brethren and companions' sake, I will now say, a fullness, a wholeness be within you.

Psa 122:9 Because of the family of Jehovah, our God, I will seek your good.

It's all in the family of God. How did they get there? What is it they believe? God treats you like family when you believe his only begotten Son, what was performed on that cross, and the fact that God sent him to you. All of this is to the glory of the Father.

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for what we know. Thank you for what we have. May these verses be contemplated, thought upon, talked about, and may you be forever glorified. In Jesus' name. Amen.