

Psalm 102:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

Analysis

The servants' favor (ratsah) toward Zion's stones and dust demonstrates deep love for God's dwelling place, even in its ruined state. This devotion to the physical symbols of God's presence reflects proper attachment to sacred things. The temple's destruction didn't diminish Israel's love for God's house. This prefigures Christian devotion to the church, though our temple is spiritual (1 Cor 3:16-17). Christ cleansed the physical temple (John 2:13-17) but ultimately became the true temple where God dwells among His people.

Historical Context

After Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon in 586 BC, the exiles mourned over the temple ruins. Even stones and dust became precious as reminders of God's former presence and promises of future restoration.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does your attitude toward corporate worship reveal about your love for God's presence?
2. How does understanding believers as God's temple transform your view of the church?

Interlinear Text

עָפָק הַ אֶת אֶבֶן יַבָּע בְּדִין בָּצָא הַגְּדֹלָה
the dust in her stones in her stones for thy servants take pleasure

H3588 H7521 H5650 H853 H68 H853 H6083

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and favour

H2603

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 4:2 (Parallel theme): And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

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