

Psalm 122:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Analysis

Jerusalem's judicial role is described: 'For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.' The word 'thrones' (plural) suggests multiple seats of authority, though united under David's house. Jerusalem served as Israel's legal center where disputes were resolved and justice administered (Deuteronomy 17:8-13). The phrase 'house of David' points to the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16) promising an eternal throne. Judgment and worship are inseparably linked - God's people gather not only to praise but to receive divine justice. The thrones represent God's delegated authority exercised through His anointed king. This verse anticipates the ultimate Judge, Jesus Christ, David's greater son, whose throne endures forever. Where God dwells, justice reigns; worship and righteousness are never separated.

Historical Context

Jerusalem became Israel's judicial capital under David. The king and appointed judges heard cases, particularly complex matters that local elders couldn't resolve (1 Kings 3:16-28). The Davidic monarchy represented divine rule on earth. After exile, hope for restoration centered on a descendant of David who would reign justly forever (Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why are 'thrones of judgment' located where worship occurs?
2. How does earthly judgment point to ultimate divine judgment?
3. In what ways does the 'house of David' anticipate Christ's eternal reign?
4. What relationship exists between corporate worship and pursuit of justice in community?
5. How should awareness of divine judgment shape our approach to worship?

Interlinear Text

וְסָא	וְתִ	לְמִשְׁפָּט	וְתִ	כִּי	שְׁמָה	וְ	יָשַׁב	וְ	יָשַׁב	וְ	יָשַׁב
H3588	H8033	For there are set	H3427	H3678	the thrones	H4941	H3678	of judgment	H3678	the thrones	H3678
לְבִּית	לְבִּית										
of the house	of David										
H1004	H1732										

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 17:8 (Judgment): If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose;

2 Chronicles 19:8 (Judgment): Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

