

Psalms 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

