

Psalm 132:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions:

Analysis

The psalm opens with intercessory appeal: 'LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions.' The imperative 'remember' (Hebrew 'zakar') means to call to mind with intent to act - not merely recalling facts but responding based on memory. The prayer asks God to remember 'David' - the historical king and the Davidic covenant. The phrase 'all his afflictions' refers to David's hardships and sufferings in establishing worship. The word 'afflictions' (Hebrew 'annah') means humbling, suffering, hardship. This likely references David's struggles to bring the ark to Jerusalem and his desire to build God a house (2 Samuel 6-7). The prayer appeals to David's devotion and sacrifice as basis for blessing his descendants and city. This demonstrates a biblical pattern: appealing to the godliness and covenants associated with previous generations as foundation for present petitions.

Historical Context

David endured significant hardship: fleeing from Saul, establishing kingdom against opposition, warfare, bringing the ark (which involved Uzzah's death, 2 Samuel 6), and planning the temple. God established covenant with David (2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89) promising eternal dynasty. This psalm reflects post-Davidic period (possibly Solomonic or later) when people appealed to Davidic covenant for continued blessing.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to ask God to 'remember' - does God forget?
2. How do David's afflictions provide basis for petitioning God on behalf of his descendants?
3. What is the relationship between Davidic covenant and this prayer?
4. In what ways do Christians appeal to Christ (David's greater son) when approaching God?
5. How does recognition of previous generations' faithfulness and suffering strengthen present faith?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמֹעֲתָה: זְכָר אֵת לְדִין דָּיוֹד יְהֹוָה כָּל
remember LORD David and all his afflictions

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 121:1 (Parallel theme): I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Psalms 120:1 (References Lord): In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

Psalms 129:1 (Parallel theme): Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: