

Psalm 132:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

Analysis

God's choice of Zion is affirmed: 'For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.' The word 'for' provides explanation for why the covenant stands - God has chosen Zion as His dwelling. The verb 'chosen' (bachar) emphasizes divine election - God selected Zion/Jerusalem from all locations. The parallel 'he hath desired it' uses love language (avah) meaning to crave, long for, delight in. God doesn't merely tolerate Zion but passionately desires it. The purpose 'for his habitation' (moshab) means dwelling place, seat, settlement - permanent residence, not temporary visit. This verse establishes theological foundation: Zion matters because God chose it. David's house and God's house are intertwined - Davidic covenant and Zion election are inseparable. God's commitment to Zion guarantees commitment to David's line.

Historical Context

God chose Zion/Jerusalem as permanent dwelling place for His name (Deuteronomy 12:5, 11; 1 Kings 8:29; 11:36; 14:21). While the temple was destroyed (586 BC), the site retained significance and was rebuilt. For Christians, Zion's significance transfers to the church and ultimately the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:2-3).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God 'chose' Zion - was this arbitrary or purposeful?
2. How does God's 'desire' for Zion demonstrate His love and commitment?
3. What is the relationship between God choosing Zion and choosing David's house?
4. How do Christians understand Zion's significance after temple destruction?
5. In what ways does God 'desire' His people corporately and individually as His dwelling?

Interlinear Text

לְמֹשֶׁב	אֶלְעָם	בָּצְיָהוּ	יְהִתּוּה	בְּמִרְ	כִּי
it for his habitation	he hath desired	Zion	For the LORD	hath chosen	H3588
H4186	H183	H6726	H3068	H977	

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:22 (Parallel theme): But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Psalms 68:16 (References Lord): Why leap ye, ye high hills? this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever.

Psalms 87:2 (References Lord): The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Isaiah 14:32 (References Lord): What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.

