

Psalms 132:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty
God of Jacob;

Analysis

David's devotion is recalled: 'How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob.' The parallel phrases 'sware unto the LORD' and 'vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob' emphasize David's solemn commitment. 'Sware' (Hebrew 'shaba') means to take oath, make binding promise. 'Vowed' (nadar) means to promise, dedicate. The divine names emphasize God's covenant nature - 'LORD' (YHWH) is the covenant name, while 'mighty God of Jacob' (Abir Ya'aqob) recalls patriarchal promises and God's power. The phrase 'mighty God' (Abir) means strong one, mighty one. This verse introduces what the oath contained (vv. 3-5), building suspense. David's commitment was formal, public, and binding - representing highest level of dedication.

Historical Context

The historical oath isn't explicitly recorded in Samuel-Kings, though 2 Samuel 7:2 records David's desire to build God a house, and 1 Chronicles 22-29 describes David's extensive temple preparations. The psalm may preserve oral tradition about David's vow. The title 'mighty God of Jacob' emphasizes continuity between patriarchal and Davidic covenants.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of both 'swearing' and 'vowing' - how do these strengthen commitment?
2. Why does the psalm invoke both 'the LORD' and 'mighty God of Jacob' - what does each name emphasize?
3. What does it mean to make solemn vows to God, and when is this appropriate?
4. How does David's oath-taking model serious commitment to God's honor and worship?
5. In what ways might Christians make solemn commitments to God's glory and kingdom?

Interlinear Text

אֵשׁ ר	נִשְׁבַּע	לַיהוָה	וְנִדָּר	לְאֵל יִר	יִשְׁקֹב:
H834	How he sware	unto the LORD	and vowed	unto the mighty	God of Jacob
	H7650	H3068	H5087	H46	H3290

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 49:24 (References God): But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)