

# Psalms 132:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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David's devotion is recalled: 'How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob.' The parallel phrases 'swear unto the LORD' and 'vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob' emphasize David's solemn commitment. 'Swear' (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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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יעקב: לְאָבִיךְ וְאָשֶׁר נִשְׁבָּע לְיְהִי הָרָקָד וְאָשֶׁר  
H834 How he sware H7650 unto the LORD H3068 and vowed H5087 unto the mighty H46 God of Jacob H3290

## Additional Cross-References

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**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:)

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