

Psalms 132:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed;

Analysis

The oath's content begins: 'Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed.' This vow of self-denial expresses extreme determination. The double negative 'I will not...nor' emphasizes comprehensive refusal. 'Tabernacle of my house' means his own dwelling, personal palace - contrasting God's humble tent (the ark's tabernacle) with David's superior residence. The phrase 'go up into my bed' suggests refusing normal comfort and rest. David vows to forfeit personal comfort until God's dwelling is established properly. This demonstrates priorities - God's honor supersedes personal convenience. The extreme language (similar to oath formulas) indicates unbreakable commitment. David's discomfort with living in a palace while God's ark remained in a tent (2 Samuel 7:2) drives this vow.

Historical Context

David brought the ark to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent (2 Samuel 6:17), while he lived in a palace of cedar (2 Samuel 7:2). This disparity troubled David, prompting his desire to build a temple. Though God denied David's request to build, David's zeal for God's house was commendable and became proverbial (Psalm 69:9; John 2:17).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does David contrast 'tabernacle of my house' with God's tent dwelling?
2. What does refusing to enter his house or sleep in his bed communicate about priorities?
3. How does self-denial in pursuit of God's glory differ from legalistic asceticism?
4. In what ways does David's zeal for God's house foreshadow Christ's zeal (John 2:17)?
5. What modern equivalents exist to David's refusal of comfort until God is properly honored?

Interlinear Text

אִם	אֶבֶא	בְּאֶהֱל	בֵּיתִי	אִם	אֶעֱלֶה
H518	Surely I will not come	into the tabernacle	of my house	H518	nor go up
	H935	H168	H1004		H5927
עַל	עַרְשִׁי	יְצוּעֵי:			
H5921	into my bed	H3326			
	H6210				

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Haggai 1:4 (Parallel theme): Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

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