

Psalm 132:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Analysis

A prayer invites God's presence: 'Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.' The imperative 'arise' calls God to action - moving from one location to another. This quotes Numbers 10:35 (Moses' prayer when ark journeyed), now inverted - instead of arising to scatter enemies, God arises to enter rest. The phrase 'into thy rest' (menucha) means resting place, permanent dwelling - contrasting with ark's wandering during wilderness, Philistine captivity, and residence at Kiriat-jearim. The parallel 'thou, and the ark of thy strength' distinguishes yet connects God and ark - God Himself (thou) and the symbol of His presence (ark). The ark is called 'ark of thy strength' (Hebrew 'uzzeka'), emphasizing God's power manifested through it. This prayer asks God to take up permanent residence among His people in Jerusalem/temple. Rest implies settled, stable, enduring presence.

Historical Context

The prayer was fulfilled when Solomon brought the ark into the completed temple (1 Kings 8:6-11; 2 Chronicles 5:7-6:1). God's glory filled the temple, confirming His acceptance of this dwelling. The language of 'rest' echoes Deuteronomy's promise of rest in the land (Deuteronomy 12:9-11; Joshua 21:44; 1 Kings 8:56). God's rest among His people parallels their rest from enemies.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for God to 'arise into rest' - how can arising be entering rest?
2. How does the ark represent God's 'strength,' and why is this emphasized?
3. What is the relationship between God's presence and His people's security/blessing?
4. How do Christians experience God 'arising into rest' among them?
5. In what ways does God's permanent dwelling (temple/church/heaven) differ from temporary dwelling (wilderness tabernacle)?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 68:1 (Resurrection): Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

Psalms 78:61 (Parallel theme): And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.