

Psalm 135:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God,

Analysis

The audience is further specified: 'Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.' The phrase 'ye that stand' indicates those present for worship - standing suggesting readiness, attentiveness, and service. The location 'in the house of the LORD' refers to temple where God's presence dwelt. The parallel 'in the courts of the house of our God' specifies the temple's outer areas where worshipers gathered. Temple had multiple courts (priests' court, Israel's court, women's court, Gentiles' court), accommodating various worshipers. The possessive 'our God' emphasizes covenant relationship - this is not a foreign deity but the God bound to His people. This verse grounds worship in specific place (temple) and relationship (our God), demonstrating that biblical worship isn't abstract but concrete, covenantal, and corporate.

Historical Context

Temple worship was organized around courts with increasing levels of holiness. Only priests entered the holy place, but all Israelites could gather in various courts. The mention of 'standing' echoes Psalm 134:1 and reflects temple worship practices. The psalm's emphasis on physical location reflects Old Testament worship centered on tabernacle/temple as God's dwelling place.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'standing in the house of the LORD' suggest about worship posture and readiness?
2. How did the temple's 'courts' facilitate both hierarchy and inclusion in worship?
3. What is the significance of calling God 'our God' rather than merely 'the LORD'?
4. How do Christians understand worship 'in the house of the LORD' after temple destruction?
5. What continuity and discontinuity exist between Old Testament temple worship and New Testament church worship?

Interlinear Text

אַלְקִינוּ:	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית
Ye that stand	in the house	of the LORD	in the courts	in the house	of our God		
H5975	H1004	H3068	H2691	H1004	H430		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 92:13 (References God): Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalms 116:19 (References Lord): In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Luke 2:37 (References God): And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.