

Psalms 135:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Analysis

The psalm reaches its climax: 'Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.' The grammar shifts from imperative ('bless the LORD') to declarative ('blessed be the LORD'), moving from command to accomplished fact. Praise rises 'out of Zion,' the temple mount where God chose to place His name. The phrase 'which dwelleth at Jerusalem' (shochan Yerushalayim) emphasizes divine presence - the God of all creation condescends to dwell among His people. This localized presence does not limit God but demonstrates His gracious accessibility. The final 'Hallelujah' (Praise ye the LORD) forms an inclusio with verse 1, framing the entire psalm in praise. For Christians, this dwelling finds ultimate expression in Christ, 'the Word made flesh' who 'dwelt among us' (John 1:14), and extends to the church as God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Historical Context

Zion originally referred to the Jebusite fortress David captured, then extended to the temple mount and eventually to Jerusalem as a whole. The concept of God 'dwelling' in Jerusalem created both privilege and responsibility for Israel. This theology of divine presence shaped Jewish worship and identity through exile and beyond.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why is Zion/Jerusalem significant as the place from which blessing flows?
2. How does corporate worship in God's presence magnify His glory?

Interlinear Text

בֵּרַךְ יְיָ	יְהוָה הוּא	מִצִּיּוֹן	שָׁכֵן	יְרוּשָׁלַם	תְּלַלּוּ
Blessed	be the LORD	out of Zion	which dwelleth	at Jerusalem	Praise
H1288	H3068	H6726	H7931	H3389	H1984
יְהוָה:					
ye the LORD					
H3050					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 134:3 (Blessing): The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.

Isaiah 12:6 (Parallel theme): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Psalms 76:2 (Parallel theme): In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion.

Psalms 128:5 (Blessing): The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

2 Chronicles 6:6 (References Jerusalem): But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.