

Psalms 76:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion.

Analysis

In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. This verse celebrates Jerusalem as God's chosen earthly dwelling, using ancient and contemporary names for the city. "**Salem**" (שָׁלֵם/Shalem) is the ancient name meaning "peace," associated with Melchizedek's city (Genesis 14:18). It emphasizes Jerusalem's destiny as the city of peace and divine presence.

"**His tabernacle**" (סְעָדָה/sukko) refers to God's dwelling tent, recalling both the wilderness tabernacle and the sacred space on Mount Zion. The parallel "**dwelling place**" (מְאוֹן/me'onah) denotes a permanent habitation, suggesting the temple's establishment. These terms bridge Israel's nomadic past with the settled monarchy under David and Solomon.

"**Zion**" (צִיּוֹן/Tsiyon) is Jerusalem's most sacred designation, the fortress David captured and transformed into God's holy city (2 Samuel 5:7). From Zion, God's presence radiated outward, His glory filling the temple, His law going forth to nations. This geographical specificity matters theologically—God chose to localize His presence, making Himself accessible through concrete historical realities rather than abstract spirituality.

Historical Context

Psalm 76 is another Asaphite psalm celebrating God's victory, likely commemorating Sennacherib's defeat in 701 BC when the Assyrian army besieging Jerusalem was destroyed overnight (2 Kings 19:35, Isaiah 37:36). The juxtaposition

of 'Salem' (peace) with military imagery creates dramatic irony—from the city of peace comes terrifying judgment against God's enemies. The tabernacle/dwelling terminology reflects the transition from portable wilderness worship to the permanent Jerusalem temple, completed during Solomon's reign around 960 BC.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's choice to dwell in a specific geographical location (Zion) challenge modern tendencies toward abstract, location-less spirituality?
2. What is the relationship between God's localized presence in the Old Testament temple and His universal presence through the Spirit in the church age?
3. How does the name 'Salem' (peace) relate to the judgment themes in Psalm 76—what kind of peace does God bring?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁלָם יְהִי וְמֵעַדְתִּי בְּצִיּוֹן:
H1961 In Salem also is his tabernacle and his dwelling place in Zion
H8004 H5520 H4585 H6726

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 14:18 (Parallel theme): And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

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.

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

Psalms 9:11 (Parallel theme): Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

Psalms 27:5 (Temple): For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Lamentations 2:6 (Temple): And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.