

Singing in the King's Choir

Keswick 2024

5: The Coming King (Psalm 132 & 150)

Introduction

Homeward bound

“Hiraeth”: “a pull on the heart that conveys a distant feeling of missing something irretrievably lost”

The story so far

Universal King (1-2)

Suffering King (Books I and II)

Absent King (Book III)

Divine King (Book IV)

Book V: The Coming King

Begins with thanksgiving for the end of the exile (107:1-3)

God is faithful to his promises

“his love/covenant faithfulness endures for ever” (107:1; 118:1-4, 29; 136 – refrain)

Confident expectation of the final fulfilment of all God's promises

1. Pilgrimage to Zion

The believers life as a journey (1:1-2; 119:1)

The Psalms of ascent (120-134)

From a distant land (misery in Meshek – 120:5)

to home (joy in Jerusalem – 134)

Psalm 132: Zion/Home

a. *God's home established (v13-14)*

“The Lord has chosen Zion... for his dwelling place” (v13)

C S Lewis “Surprised by Joy”

“...we would be at Jerusalem”

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem...”

Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people” (Rev 21::2-3)

b. God's King enthroned (v17-18)

"Lord, remember David" (v1, 10-11)

"A descendant of David... appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 1:3-4)

c. God's people blessed (v15-16)

"her faithful people shall ever sing for joy" (v16)

2. Praise in Zion

a. Praise the Lord! Where? (150:1)

Praise God in his sanctuary (v1)

Jesus is God's tabernacle (Jn 1:14) and temple (Jn 2:19)

The church is God's temple (1 Pe 2:4-5)

"a royal priesthood... that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Pe 2:9)

b. Praise the Lord! Why? (150:2)

For his

- 'acts of power' (v2a) – what he has done
- surpassing greatness (v2b) – who he is

Praise is

- natural
We were created to reflect God's glory for his glory
- political
"we don't believe your lies anymore" (Vaclav Havel)

c. Praise the Lord! How? (150:3-5)

The power of music

7 instruments

The voice (146:2; 147:1; 149:1)

Music evokes, expresses and enhances emotion

- Avoid - emotionalism
- cold formalism

d. Praise the Lord! Who? (150:6)

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” (v6)

- “my soul” (146:1)
- All God’s people (147:12)
- All creation (148)
 - angels
 - Sun, moon and stars (v3-6)
 - Sea creatures, mountains, wild animals, etc. (v7-10)
 - All nations and all people (v11-12)
 - “for his name alone is exalted... and he has raised up for his people a horn” (v13-14)

“stagger onward rejoicing” (W H Auden)