

David's Resolve to Find a Resting Place for God (Ps. 132)

I. DAVID A MODEL FOR END-TIME LEADERSHIP

David is a picture of what God will release by the Spirit on the End-Time Church that operates in power through worship that comes from walking out lifestyles of radical loving obedience.

The sure mercies of David. 4 Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people. (Isa. 55:3-4)

Show me a sign for good...because You, LORD, have helped me...(Ps. 86:17).

II. GOD'S DESIRE IS TO MANIFEST HIMSELF IN HIS PEOPLE AS HIS RESTING PLACE

Heaven is My Throne, and earth is My footstool... where is the place of My rest? (Isaiah 66:1)

A. Where is God's resting place? This is the most important question in history. David was consumed with this question and made it his life's passion to answer it. Ps. 132 is important for those in leadership in the End-Time Church. In this Psalm, we see and understand the resolve that David had in his zeal for the breakthrough of God in his generation. David as a wise builder was very intentional in what he was seeking to establish in his life work, i.e., the resting place of God in his generation.

B. God created the human race that He might find His home in them (Rev. 21:1-8). *God rests in us when He finds His home in people on earth who voluntarily live in deep unity with His heart. God describes Himself as resting in the midst of His people when all resistance toward Him is gone.*

C. At present, God is usually striving with His people who live with various degrees of compromise and resistance of His leadership over them.

The LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...(Gen. 6:3).

They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them. (Isa. 63:10)

Thus they provoked Him to anger...and the plague broke out among them. (Ps. 106:29)

III. GOD'S RESTING PLACE OR HIS HABITATION – PARTIAL, SUBSTANTIAL AND ULTIMATE

The Gentiles shall seek Him (Jesus), and His resting place shall be glorious. (Isa. 11:10)

Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and...Your strength. (Ps. 132:8)

This (Zion) is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. (Ps. 132:14)

All inhabitants of the world...when He blows a trumpet, you hear it. 4 The LORD said, I will take My rest and I will look from My dwelling place...7 In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin (Ethiopians), from a people terrible from their beginning onward...whose land the rivers divide-- to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, to Mount Zion. (Isa. 18:3-7)

- A. God describes Himself as resting in the midst of His people when all resistance toward Him is gone. He only makes His habitation in the midst of radically obedient people because to do otherwise would lead to trouble for those people. In God's eternal purposes, He makes His habitation in varying measures of intensity including partial, substantial and ultimate expressions of His manifest Presence (glory).
- B. The habitation of God in this age, speaks of those rare occasions in history, where God manifested His presence in a particular people in a geographic area beyond a short term revival.
- C. In the OT, God's continual immediate manifest Presence was on earth only in one place, in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle/Temple, then occasionally through God's anointing on a prophet or king. From a global point of view, this was only one small "strand of His manifest glory."
- D. What defines the Holy of Holies is the unrestrained manifest Presence of God that dwells in it. God's Presence is everywhere, (even in hell), but His manifest Presence that is overtly experienced by His creation is not everywhere.

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. (Ps. 139:8)

- E. The Holy of Holies had a full expression of God's glory, thus making it the most unique place on the earth during OT times. It was a gloriously dangerous place because to bring any dimension of this sin-tainted earth into direct contact with God's manifest Presence (purity) had immediate negative consequences. (Ex. 33:20-23; 19:21; 20:19; Gen. 32:30; Judges 13:12-22; Rev. 22:4).

He said, "You (Moses) cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (Ex. 33:20)

- F. An example of the impact of God's manifest Presence to the natural realm is seen when the Temple and Isaiah himself were shaken by merely coming into contact with Jesus' robe.

I saw the Lord sitting on a Throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple...⁴ The posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone!...For my eyes have seen the King." (Isa. 6:1-5)

- G. ***A partial resting place*** – God is said to “rest” or “make His habitation” in His redeemed partially in this age. God's resting place for the Holy Spirit in this age is a geographic place where an open heaven (portal of glory) exists resulting in profound divine blessing.

- H. The Holy Spirit dwells in individuals as a down payment of more in the age-to-come.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you (1 Cor. 6:19).

...having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee (down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...(Eph. 1:13-14).

- I. God also dwells in us corporately in this age as a down payment of the future (Rev. 21).

What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? What communion has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial?...16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you (corporately) are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)

- J. *A substantial resting place* – God will manifest Himself in His people through the nations in the Kingdom Age in a much greater way, yet not in the fullest way. However, Jesus will fully manifest Himself in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem, in the Holy of Holies. This is the only place in which the full manifestation of God's glory will exist in the Millennial Kingdom. However, the nations across the earth will experience a substantial measure of it. The Millennial earth is filled with revelation, but not the full manifest glory.
- K. *An ultimate resting place* – God will fully manifest Himself through His people through the nations after the Millennium as the New Jerusalem descends to the New Earth and righteousness perfectly fills the earth. The New Earth will be filled with the full manifest glory because sin will be completely removed.

IV. DILEMMA: GOD'S PRESENCE MANIFEST IN THE MIDST OF SINFUL HUMANITY

- A. Principle: the greater the manifestation of God's glory, the greater manifestation of judgment because of the greater need to remove all that is not in agreement with His Person.

Go up from here...to the land...I swore to Abraham...2 I will send My Angel before you...3 For I will NOT go up in your midst, lest I consume you...for you are a stiff-necked people. (Ex. 33:1-3)

- B. David bought the ark up to Jerusalem. Since God chose to release His manifest Presence in relationship to the Ark, thus a unique glory and danger was present in handling the Ark.

David arose...to bring up...the ark of God...3 They set the ark of God on a new cart...6 Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God...for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God. (2 Sam. 6:2-7)

- C. David was victorious over all his enemies by virtue of God's unique manifestation of His power in David's midst in context to the Ark, thus David was more responsible to live in meekness before God.

Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. 2 So David said to Joab..., "Go, number Israel...that I may know it." 7 God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel. David said to God, "I have sinned greatly..." 14 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell. 15 God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. 16 David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. (1 Chr. 21:1-16)

V. PARTIALLY – GOD'S "REST" OR HABITATION" IN THIS AGE

- A. God can "rest" or "make His habitation" in His redeemed partially in this age. God's resting place for the Holy Spirit in this age is a geographic place where an open heaven (portal of glory) exists resulting in profound divine blessing. He allows this to happen whenever He finds a people in a particular geographic location who corporately live in pursuit of 100-fold obedience. His habitation is in His people not in buildings. This was seen in the believers in the city of Jerusalem in Acts 1-6.

We...have access by one Spirit to the Father. 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Eph. 2:18-22)

These all continued with one accord in prayer 15...altogether the number was about 120...2:1 They were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 1:14-2:4)

- B. Jesus' earthly ministry resulted in an unprecedented miracle of 120 people living in deep unity with God and thus with one another. The result is that God found a measure of rest in their midst as seen in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room (Acts 2). In other words, the Holy Spirit opened a portal (large gate) of glory in the midst of people in this age without destroying those He dwelt among.
- C. They were a corporate group who sought to walk out Sermon on the Mount Christianity in pursuing 100-fold obedience (covenant with eyes, bridled speech, holy use of time and money). Unity (community) is a fanciful ideal without pursuing maturity as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5:48). Unity with one another occurs easily when the people are striving to be in unity with God in thought, word and deed. The spirit of compromise cannot unify nor bond easily with people. Unity in the Book of Acts was focused more on pursuit of meekness than on theological ideas.

- D. The manifest glory of Acts 2 and 4 is what lead to the more intense judgment against sin in Acts 5.
Ananias...sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds...3 Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land...4...you have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. (Acts 5:1-4)
- E. It is rare to get 2 or 3 people in full agreement with God's heart.
I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. (Mt. 18:19-20)
- F. Faithfulness is what God is seeking for in His people.
You shall be perfect (pursing 100-fold obedience), just as your Father...(Mt. 5:48)
Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among...men. (Ps. 12:1)

VI. THE DIVINE SEEKER: LOYAL HEARTS (INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY)

True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)

I sought for a man among them who would....stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (Ezek. 22:30)

- A. The great "seeker" that we need to focus on attracting is the Divine seeker whose eyes go to and fro across the earth looking for faithful ones. Compromise repels the Holy Spirit who seeks those in whom He may dwell with in a more full way. God requiring loyalty or faithfulness is not so that man can attain to spiritual status and so deserve God's power, but so that man is protected in the midst of it.

VII. SUBSTANTIAL – GOD WILL MANIFEST HIMSELF IN THE KINGDOM AGE

- A. God will manifest Himself in His people through the nations in the Kingdom Age in a much greater way, yet not in the fullest way. However, Jesus will fully manifest Himself in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem, in the Holy of Holies. This is the only place in which the full manifestation of God's glory will exist in the Millennial Kingdom. However, the nations across the earth will experience a substantial measure of it. The Millennial earth is filled with revelation, but not the full manifest glory.

- B. This is what makes it the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies in the Millennial temple will have a full expression of the glory that is normative through the heavenly New Jerusalem. This is unique beyond measure because the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem Temple is on the earth that still has sin in it. This is gloriously dangerous to bring any dimension of this sin-tainted earth into contact with transcendent purity. (Ex. 33:20-23; 19:21; 20:19; Gen. 32:30; Judges 13:12-22; Rev. 22:4)
- C. The Millennial Jerusalem Holy of Holies will have the fullness of the Acts 2 waves and winds of glory breaking in. That is why it is called the Holy of Holies.

The glory of the LORD came into the Temple...5 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the Temple. 6 Then I heard Him (Jesus) speaking to me from the Temple...7 He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My Throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. (Ezek. 43:4-7)

- D. The whole earth has the knowledge of God in terms of His ways being taught. The spirit of revelation is in the greatest measure globally than at any time in history. However, the fullness of the manifest glory will exist in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14)

VIII. ULTIMATE – GOD WILL FULLY MANIFEST HIMSELF IN THE NEW EARTH

- A. God will fully rest or manifest Himself through His people through the nations after the Millennium as the New Jerusalem descends to the New Earth and righteousness perfectly fills the earth. The New Earth will be filled with the full manifest glory because sin will be completely removed.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth...2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...3 I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:1-3)

- B. What defines the New Jerusalem as the Holy of Holies is the manifest Presence of God throughout the entire City. God's Presence is everywhere, (even in hell), but His manifest Presence is not. His Presence is everywhere, but His immediate manifest Presence is where it is tangibly experienced or distinctly felt or discerned by His creation.

- C. The Holy of Holies is the place God's manifest Presence is discernable to all present. The entire New Jerusalem (Eternal City) has waves of glory flowing through it continually with different manifestations including the beauty of supernatural diamond-like light.

He...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like....like a jasper stone (diamond), clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:10-11)

- D. The entire New Earth will be filled with the manifest glory of God and all will be safe because righteousness will dwell throughout the earth.

Truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD (Num. 14:21).

We...look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Pet. 3:13)

IX. DAVID'S REVELATION OF GOD'S DESIRE TO REST IN HIS PEOPLE (PS. 132)

- A. David understood that God desired to manifest Himself to His people who lived faithful before Him.

LORD, remember David And all his afflictions; 2 How he swore to the LORD, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, 5 Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." 6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; We found it in the fields of the woods. (Ps. 132:1-6)

- B. David bore reproach in his zeal to establish God's house or dwelling place to rest among His people.

Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; 9 Because zeal for Your House has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. 11...I became a byword to them. 12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards. (Ps. 69:7-12)

- C. God arises in His manifest Presence in His resting place.

Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool. 8 Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. 9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy. (Ps. 132:7-9)

- D. God's resting place

For Your servant David's sake, Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed. 11 LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. 12 If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore." 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: 14 "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. 15 I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. 16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy. 17 There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed. 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish." (Ps. 132:10-18)

X. DAVID'S VALUES IN LIFE AND LEADERSHIP: SEEKING A RESTING PLACE OF GOD (PS. 101)

A. Did was zealous for the breakthrough of God in his generation. David was a wise builder in establishing his sphere of authority to receive God's blessing. Psalm 101 is the clearest statement of David's practical pursuit of a corporate resting place for God. David set his heart in his *personal life* to live in pursuit of full obedience (Ps. 101:1-4). David set his heart in his *corporate life* (team ministry) to build within his sphere with the core value of seeking God with full obedience and faithfulness (Ps. 101:5-8).

B. David's heart cry for God to come in a manifest dwelling place (God's rest). David embraces his part of the cooperation with grace focusing especially on seeking so God would come in context to his personal 100-fold obedience (v. 2) and his leadership team being faithful (v. 6).

Oh, when will You come to me? (Ps. 101:2)

I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes. (Ps. 101:2-3)

My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me. (Ps. 101:6)

C. Faithfulness is required by God and people. God requires it to visit in power without having to destroy His people for compromise in the midst of His manifest holiness. Also, people require it to remain together since to neglect faithfulness divides and defiles people seeking to work together.

It is required in stewards that one be found faithful. (1 Cor. 4:2)