

Arrival

P s a l m 132*

This psalm is a prayer of the congregation that the Lord would remember David's vow concerning the dwelling place for the ark. The congregation found the answer to this prayer when they resolved to worship at the temple. They were reminded of God's promises that David's line would continue, that Zion would be His dwelling place, and that the Messiah would appear.

Give God preeminence in your life (1-5)

Express joyful worship (6-9)

Remember God's promises (10-12)

Trust God's for His blessings (13-18)

Traveling on the Pilgrim Pathway

All Christians are pilgrims, on a journey.

The Christian life is a road trip, a journey of the most exhilarating kind. It has a starting point and a terminus. It is a metaphor of movement. Christians do not stay in one place too long, for they are set for another location. Early Christians were referred to as the followers of "the Way"—a reflection that they seemed determined to follow a different path ([Acts 9:2](#); [24:14](#)).

Several issues arise.

First, there is the idea of an adventure. There is something exciting about the Christian life. New glimpses of God's provision, intervention, and rescue await at every turn. We have no idea what a day may bring forth ([Prov. 27:1](#)), but we may be assured that nothing happens without our heavenly Father willing it to happen.

Second, pilgrimage is evocative of the transitory nature of this life. "Here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come" ([Heb. 13:14](#)). "The things that are seen are transient" ([2 Cor. 4:18](#)).

A third aspect of pilgrimage is a sense of direction, a goal, an end point. The journey has a destination. Christianity provides a *shalom*, a sense of wholeness and completeness. Christians know who they are and where they are going. Aimlessness and drift characterize so much of life without the embrace of Christ.

Christians "look" for "things unseen" ([2 Cor. 4:18](#), where the Greek verb "to look" suggests an intense, steady gaze). It sounds like a paradox: we look for something that cannot be seen. Glory awaits, and Christian pilgrims maintain a steady but determined discipline of facing forward. What lies ahead fills our vision and keeps us expectant. What awaits steady pilgrims surpasses expectation and defies explanation.

"Onward and upward!—adapted from blogpost by Derek Thomas

Psalms 132-134 are all centered in Zion. The pilgrimage is past; home has been reached. Yet there is movement within the three: from the objective facts of city and monarchy as divinely chosen and established (132) to the heaven-sent fellowship of the Lord's family (133) and to the actuality of standing in the very presence of the Lord himself (134). This is the end of the pilgrimage: the Lord with us (132), the church in perfect fellowship (133), the Lord's servants in the Lord's sanctuary (134).²

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

² J. A. Motyer, "The Psalms," in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 575.