

PURSuing THE LORD'S PSALM 132 VISION FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

J.S. BOEGL

PREFACE: THE LORD INVITES US TO PURSUE THE PLANS & VISIONS IN HIS HEART

- A. The heart of the Lord is filled with extraordinary, supernatural plans and visions for His people.
For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity; to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)
These plans are not merely fanciful hopes; because they are established in God's heart they actually transcend our normal way of thinking, planning, envisioning and executing. God's plans invite us into a new paradigm of thinking and operating that goes against the flow of conventional thinking.
For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8,9)
- B. The Lord delights in His daughters and sons participating with Him to seek out, discover, clarify, pray through, and administrate the details of these extraordinary plans as He reveals them to us through dialoguing with the Spirit and His Word.
1. As a Father, God loves to have His children seek out, and discover *the whys and the ways* of His heart.
 2. Seeking the *whys* of the vision gives us understanding about *God's attitudes* toward the *what* of the vision.
 3. Seeking out the ways of God's heart is part of ***"growing up"*** (Ephesians 4:15) and learning to relate & dialogue with Him as adult *friends*.
I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. (John 15:15)
 4. King David is an example of a mature man who sought out the *ways* and the *whys* of God's heart. Because he was primarily fascinated by the heart of God he invariably became absorbed with the visions that He saw burning in God's heart.
It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and it is the glory of a king to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2)
This was a major reason David was known as a ***man after God's own heart*** (Acts 13:22). It's also what David was describing when he expressed his own passion to ***inquire in His temple*** (Psalm 27:4)
 5. Jesus is the One Who gives us the ultimate picture of what mature conversation with the Father looks like. We can ask the Holy Spirit, *"What are the thoughts, attitudes, feelings that distinguish Jesus' heart as He intercedes/converses with the Father?"* and He will ***declare them*** to us. (John 16:13, 15)
- C. Taking *extra time* to *seeking out the different aspects His heart* regarding these plans can feel superfluous and unnecessary. In our rush to achieve the ordinary, this is often why we miss out on His extraordinary. However, even a small pursuit of His heart-vision typically yields hidden ways of wisdom and success that are not immediately apparent to our natural mind.
1. We will do more for the Lord by doing it with the Lord; with His heart, with His wisdom, and with understanding for His passion for us, than we will by simply engaging in more goal-oriented ministry. Our ministries will be sustained for longer periods of time, with higher degrees of joy and unanimity, with longer-lasting results, *and* have more exhilarating testimonies of the Lord's presence, as we take the time to pursue the high visions in God's heart.
 2. Seeking His vision also builds history in listening and interacting with the Holy Spirit, and therefore trains our spiritual sensors; sharpening our ability to see, hear and respond to the Spirit. God is tremendously invested in developing intimate communication with His children. Our spirits were expressly designed to engage and enjoy this type of communication and interaction with Him!

I. PSALM 132 EXPRESSES GOD'S VISION & DESIRE TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE

- A. Psalm 132 is God's description of His plan to have a dwelling place on planet earth. And it's His desire to accomplish His own plan and purpose through the intercession of those who will see, inquire and share His heart.
O Lord, You are my God! I will exalt You in praise, I will extol Your fame. For You have done extraordinary things, and executed plans made long ago exactly as You decreed. (Isaiah 25:1)
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. (Isaiah 46:11)

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- B. Jesus prays for this same desire and vision in John 17. Psalm 132 is John 17 in the Old Testament. ***Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am that they may behold My glory which You have given Me.*** (John 17:24)
- C. Israel experienced a foretaste of the fulfillment of God's vision after being delivered from Egypt and journeying with God in the wilderness. This was a historical reality, within a specific, geographical location, among an actual group of people.
So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. (Exodus 33:8-10)
- D. Psalm 132 is far from a sketchy picture of a far-flung utopia. What the Lord showed to David was more than a theological way of thinking, or an internalized philosophy of thought. The vision God has in mind is that ***He and His might (v.5) and strength (v.8)*** would literally ***dwell (v. 14)*** with real people, in distinct geographical locations.
- E. Psalm 132 is a present age fulfillment of Jesus' prophetic promises about the victorious church in Matthew 16,
...and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)
and Ephesians 5
...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
...and His many promises extended to the seven Churches in Revelations 2 and 3.
- F. Psalm 132 contains twelve explicit descriptors of what God's resident presence and power will look like within a community that God establishes as ***His resting place*** (v.14).
- 1. The community will burn with intercessory desire for God's presence**
The whole scope of the Psalm is saturated with passion and fervency. As he recalls David's pursuit, the Psalmist himself runs directly into the inferno of God's ***desire*** to dwell with His people (v.13 & 14). A community that becomes a resting place for the Almighty will first become a nuclear reactor that churns with intercessory zeal for God to fulfill His vision.
 - 2. The minister/servants will be invested with supernatural power for evangelistic success**
(v. 9) pleads for the priests to be ***clothed with righteousness*** (and justice). In (v.16) God promises that when He makes Zion His dwelling place He ***will also clothe her priests with salvation.*** When God ***rests*** among His people, their discipleship efforts will be gloriously effective and fruitful.
 - 3. God will abundantly bless the people with provision**
(v.15) Because the presence of the Lord is with the people He will abundantly provide for their monetary, physical, emotional, communal and spiritual needs. (Jeremiah 31:14) This not only means there will be supernatural ***finance*** and ***resource*** for the many dimensions of the community, there will also be extra-ordinary anointing, personnel, relational favor etc. for all aspects of the ministry work as well.
 - 4. God will also abundantly provide for the impoverished**
Part of God's supernatural supply will include ample provision (food, shelter, emotional & relational wholeness etc.) for the poor. (v.15) He also supplies ***spiritual bread*** for the ***spiritually poor.*** (Matthew 5:3)

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5. **Her holy inhabitants will be overflowing with joy**
(v.16) isn't a simple promise of happiness. God is painting a picture of a people who are jubilantly bold and happy in their holy lifestyles. They are specifically exuberant about the fact that as they live in obedience to God, their whole beings are entirely satisfied. This is what Jesus promises in Matthew 5:6 ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be (filled and) satisfied.***
6. **The people will have favor to extend God's loving leadership to others**
Here, the Lord promises that His leadership through ***the horn of David*** will ***grow*** (v.17). This is not only political favor, but organizational favor. It means that the community will be anointed with authority to manifest the righteous order of the King to others to the degree that it is manifest within themselves. It's *God's ways* that will be established - not our *enculturation* of His ways. If we are talking about the eternal God of 300 billion galaxies inhabiting our communities, it will upset as many issues in *our lives*, as it will in the lives of the unredeemed.
7. **A Prevailing sense of chosen-ness, value and desirability saturates the people**
As a community experiences the Psalm 132 manifest presence of the Lord, they will be marked with a deep sense of being greatly desired and diligently pursued. The assurance of being profoundly loved by God is one of the characteristics that has most frequently marked revivals, awakenings and other moves of God throughout history.
8. **God's Enemies are clothed with shame**
With the presence of God comes a frustration of the plans of the enemy. Pity those that obstruct the Father moving close to love His children. This quality also speaks of "godly social norms" that promote and inspire righteous living. In the day of Psalm 132, it will be out of vogue to engage in deeds of darkness.
The light of the Holy Spirit's presence will expose destructive thinking and deceitful behavior. The chilling story of Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11) is a picture of those who oppose God's way being ***clothed with shame.***
9. **The community becomes a radiant witness to the Messiah, Jesus Christ**
(v.17) ***I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed*** is a weighty statement of the Father's promise to raise up and establish a glorious witness to His Son, Jesus Christ. As the Lord's Psalm 132 presence dwells among the people, He will establish ministry that will not only be anointed with the same purpose, the same power and same vision as the ministry of the Messiah/Christ (the anointed One), it will radiate with love for Him and magnify the beauty of His work and leadership.
10. **The people live crowned by God's glory, authority & headship**
A ***flourishing crown*** is a picture of authority, headship and glory. The people that God chooses to dwell among will walk under His loving authority and function as regents of compassion, healing, justice, provision and mercy. Under His Headship, His authority is fruitfully administrated through our lives.
11. **A prevailing spirit of rest and spiritual satisfaction saturates the community**
The Lord Himself declares: ***This is My resting place.*** Because God's Spirit sets the tone for the whole atmosphere of a community, if God is at rest, the whole community is at rest; is living in unity, satisfaction and submission to the Lord's loving leadership.

Note: In America there is no place where, according to Psalm 132, it could be said: *God rests here.* In many places and peoples, churches and ministries, Houses of Prayer and House Churches, it can only be said that *God, in His love, contends here.* In far too many places it can tragically be said: *God no longer contends here.* (Genesis 6:3 & Isaiah 57:16)

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12. God's covenant reign of righteousness bridges *at least two generations*

Most revivals last for three or four years. In (v.12) God promises David that *if your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore*. It's in the heart of God to not merely *visit* a community of people for a year or two of stimulating, popular, meetings. It's the Lord's desire that the people of God would know His presence as the *norm*, and transmit His ways and His righteousness on to their children - and to their children's children.

II. WE NEED 5 KINDS OF GRACE TO PURSUE GOD'S VISION FOR PSALM 132

A. A Grace to Be Dissatisfied with the Status Quo

People who are pressing into God's prophetic, Psalm 132 vision need grace to see their lives and their communities as they are. This is the testimony of the Churches of Revelation. They didn't die out because of external persecution. They died out because they didn't perceive and/or receive what the Lord was actually saying about them.

You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (Revelation 3:1)

You do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. (Revelation 3:17)

B. A Grace to Lament and Grieve

As the Lord gives a group of people insight a people also needs grace to grieve and lament over their dull, stunted, status quo relationship with God. They need grace to *abide in the ache* as they are moved to intercession and the pursuit of God's vision for their community. This internal dynamic make take the form of great anguish, and is often first accompanied by long periods of lament or intense travailing prayer.

"All passion for Christ goes through a baptism of anguish. Search the scripture, and you'll find that when God determined to recover a ruined situation He would share His own anguish over a situation with a praying man or woman - and he would take that man, and literally baptize him in anguish. There's a great deal of difference between anguish and concern. Concern is something that you take an interest in; a project or a cause or a need; but it begins in you. Anguish begins in the heart of God and then He baptizes us into it. The eternal inside the mortal. The mortal filled with the agony of the Eternal...Friends. There's going to be no renewal, no awakening, no revival, until we are willing to let God come and replace our concern with anguish." David Wilkerson (2009)

C. A Grace to See & Receive the Revelation of His Vision

The majority of mainstream, Christianity doesn't perceive that Psalm 132 is in the Lord's heart, or is possible in this age. Therefore, most believers never contend for God's vision of being a Psalm 132 people. It is a work of the Holy Spirit for a people to *see* and *embrace the revelation* that God actually desires to dwell in victorious strength and might within their community. Although intensely extraordinary, Psalm 132 exhorts us to *not believe* that the lack of the presence of God among the people of God is OK, just because it's currently the norm of the community.

Status quo is latin for "*order of the common*". It takes the grace of God in order for any individual, or community of people to escape the natural gravity of what is commonly perceived, and understood as the the potential norm of a culture. It requires grace to perceive "*Statue Regis*", or "*the order of the King*", as the potential norm within a culture.

D. A Grace to Commit to the Covenant Vows that Accompany His Vision

God is looking for a people who will *enter into covenant with Him* about the Psalm 132 vision that burns in His heart. The covenant says: a.) "This is God's idea." and b.) "It will only be achieved as we abide within the parameters of His might, not our's."

Those who do pursue Psalm 132 need grace to fulfill the many covenant **vows** (v.2) that accompany the attainment of the vision, so that as they live wholehearted lifestyles of prayer, worship, fasting, love and obedience, the people **rest** in the sufficiency of God's **might & strength** and not in the mutability of their own religious determination.

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D. A Grace to Remember & Persevere in Faith

Entering into the covenant to establish a habitation for God on earth is a commitment of one's whole life. The dissuading voice of the enemy, the fatigue of the human flesh and the oppositional arguments of others will daily tempt individuals to quit or bargain for a lower vision.

Because so much is arrayed against those pursuing Psalm 132, the Lord promises the grace of remembering; remembering not only the *letter* of the promise, but the beauty, the nobility and the joy of pursuing the vision as well.

Even with constant Holy Spirit reminders, the journey will require enduring faith; meaning it (God's vision for Psalm 132 in our lives) will only be fulfilled through thousands of little and large acts of faith.

E. A Grace to Live in the Fulfillment of Psalm 132

It takes grace to contend for God to fulfill His dream of doing Psalm 132 on earth. It will also take great grace to *live out the fulfillment* of such a vision. If we were to get a true vision of the inconvenience, the stigma, the demand, the controversy and the mess that will accompany becoming a habitation for God, most of us would not be eager for it. We need grace to embrace the vision on His terms and not just the romance of the vision.

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It's wise to study the revelation of God's desire for Psalm 132. But the pursuit of the revelation of God's heart must become an active, prayerful priority of one's community. Here is a prayer paradigm to help launch intercessors into the Lord's phenomenal vision for their community.

PRAYING FOR YOUR CITY/REGION TO BECOME A PSALM 132 HABITATION OF THE LORD

Father, we've only seen a GLIMMER of what's in YOUR HEART...

We ask for REVELATION: we want to know the WHATS, WHYS and WAYS that exist in Your heart!

Unveil Your heart and your desire to do Psalm 132 among us Lord.

We want the BEAUTY and WEIGHTINESS of Your GLORY and Your ORDER in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods & throughout our community.

It's Your idea to have a dwelling place on planet earth; that You and Your might (v.5) & strength (v.8) would dwell (v. 14) with us. Father, we ask that our community will burn with desire for Your presence; that we'd be filled with the same passion and fervency that burns like an inferno within Your heart. Fill us with zeal for Your manifest presence among us.

Father, we ask that Your priests would be *clothed with righteousness & salvation* (and justice);

O, that Your servants would be invested with supernatural power for evangelistic success!

To You belongs the power, Lord. Make us fruitful in the ways of salvation!

Father, we are hungry that our city and all of her *holy inhabitants* would be overflowing w joy. Would you make us a people who are jubilantly bold and happy as we cultivate lifestyles that grow deep in Your holiness? People who rejoice in wholehearted obedience to You; and whose entire beings are satisfied in righteousness. (Matt. 5:6)

Establish Your covenant reign of righteousness that it would bear fruit which remains; bridging two and more generations. You said *if your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore*. It's in Your heart to not merely visit a community of people for a year or two stimulating popular, meetings. It's Your desire that we would know Your presence as the *norm*, and transmit Your ways and Your righteousness to our children - and to our children's children. Establish a work here that would stand from one generation to another Father!

What a joy that You would fill us with a prevailing sense of being valued & loved by You. Father, would you saturate Your people and mark them with a deep confidence of being greatly *desired* & diligently pursued by You, the eternal God of the universe.

We ask for a prevailing spirit of rest and spiritual satisfaction to saturate our community. O Father, You, Yourself have declared: *This is My resting place*. It's our desire that You not merely contend here, but that You *rest here* Father! Holy Spirit set the atmosphere for our community. Be at rest here! Cause us to live in unity, under the abiding presence of the Father; satisfied and submitted to His loving leadership.

Make us the victorious church of Matthew 16: *...and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*. (Matthew 16:18) and Ephesians 5: *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish*. (Ephesians 5:27) Fulfill the ardent desire of Your Son when He cried: *Father, I desire that they also who You gave Me may be with Me where I am*. (John 17:24)

Father, we thank You for Your goodness to abundantly bless Your people with *provision* for the work You've called us to. Thank You, for supplying for our monetary, physical, emotional, communal and spiritual needs. We exult in Your supernatural *finance* and *resource* and we thank You for the extraordinary anointing, personnel, relational favor etc. that You're pouring out for the fruitfulness of this ministry.

Father, we also ask that You would abundantly provide for the *poor* within our community. Hear their cry! Would You

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extend generous provision (food, shelter, emotional & relational wholeness etc.) for the needy in our city. (v.15)
We ask that You would also supply the *spiritual bread* for the *spiritually poor* (Matt. 5:3) today, Father!

We ask for **favor to extend Your loving leadership to others**; that Your leadership thru *the horn of David* would **grow** in relational, political and organizational favor. Would You cause our community to be anointed with authority to manifest the righteous order of the King?

Would You empower us to become a **radiant witness to the Messiah, Jesus Christ**. Raise up & establish a glorious witness to Your Son, Jesus; establish ministry that will not only be *anointed* with the same purpose, the same power and same vision as the ministry of the Messiah, but cause us to radiate w love for Him and magnify the beauty of His work and leadership.

O that **Your enemies would be clothed with shame, Father**. Frustrate the plans of the enemy as You move close to love Your children! We ask that You'd establish "godly social norms" that inspire righteous living. Expose destructive thinking and deceitful behavior even as You make it *out of vogue* to engage in deeds of darkness.

Father would You fruitfully release Your authority through our lives, that we would **live crowned by Your glory, authority & headship**. We ask that You would cause Your loving authority to *flourish* within our city as we administer Your compassion, healing, justice, provision and mercy in the name of Jesus.

FATHER, WE NEED YOUR GRACE TO PURSUE THIS VISION!

We need grace to be dissatisfied with the status quo; to grieve and lament over our dull, inferior, vision of life in You. We need grace to *abide in the ache* as we are moved with intercession and pursue Your plan.

We need grace to see & receive the revelation of Your vision. We want to see and pursue what's in Your heart Lord. We want to know what's possible in this age. We want Your vision of us being a Psalm 132 people. Holy Spirit make us a people who see and *embrace the revelation* that You and the Father and the Son desire to dwell in victorious strength and might within this community.

We need grace to commit to the covenant vows that accompany Your vision

Father, this is all Your idea. It will only be achieved as we abide within the parameters of Your might. We need Your might and grace to fulfill the many covenant **vows** (v.2) that accompany this vision. We need grace to live wholehearted lifestyles of prayer, worship, fasting, love and obedience. O, that we might *rest* in the sufficiency of Your **might & strength** and not in the mutability of our own religious determination. Help us, Father!

We need grace to remember & persevere in faith

Father, we commit our whole life to the attainment of Your vision. We need Your grace to resist and counter the dissuading voice of the enemy, the fatigue of the human flesh and the oppositional arguments of others. We are weak and prone to quit and bargain for a lower vision. Father, see all that is arrayed against us as we pursue this vision. We ask for grace to remember not only the *letter* of the promise, but the beauty, the nobility and the joy of the vision itself. We need enduring strength to fulfill thousands of little and large acts of faith.

We need grace to live in the fulfillment of Psalm 132

Father, we want Psalm 132 here on earth. We ask for Your great grace to pursue it and to *live out the fulfillment* of this vision. We need grace for the inconvenience, the stigma, the demand, the controversy and the mess that accompanies becoming a habitation for You. We need grace to embrace Your vision on Your terms.

Surely You will fulfill Your desire to establish a dwelling place for Yourself on earth!

Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. (Isaiah 46:11)

Father, we appeal to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus

AMEN

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