

Psalm 133

"The Beauty of Israeli Unity Experienced at National Festivals"

(A Song of Ascents,¹ of David.)

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A1 THE VIRTUE OF UNITY 133:1

B1 {1} Behold, how good and how pleasant it is

B2 For brothers to dwell together in unity!

A2 THE SIMILES OF UNITY 133:2-3

B1 Like Anointing Oil Descending Upon and Unifying Aaron's Total Being 133:2

C1 {2} It is like the precious oil ² upon the head,

C2 Coming down upon the beard, *Even* Aaron's beard,

C3 Coming down upon the edge of his robes.

¹ Song of Ascents: See note on Psalm 120.

² 133:2 - oil: "David compared the unity mentioned in verse 1 to the **oil** that consecrated Aaron (cf. Lev. 8:12). This imagery from the priesthood was appropriate because of the pilgrims being in Jerusalem. The oil poured **on Aaron's** head flowed **down** on his **beard** and shoulders, and onto the breastplate with the names of all 12 tribes. The oil thus symbolized the unity of the nation in worship under their consecrated priest. As the oil consecrated Aaron, so the unity of the worshipers in Jerusalem would consecrate the nation under God." (Allen P. Ross, Psalms, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* [TBKC])

B2 Like the Dew of Hermon Descending Upon the Mountains of Zion, the Focus of Yahweh's Blessing 133:3

- C1 {3} It is like the dew of Hermon ³
- C2 Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; ⁴
- C3 For there the LORD commanded the blessing--life forever.

³ 133:3 - dew of Hermon (descending on mountains of Zion) (and oil on Aaron's beard and garments): Mount Hermon, at 9232 feet (2814 meters) is the highest point in Palestine. The mountains of Zion (Jerusalem) are 117 miles to the south. Since Hermon is snow-covered year round, there are times when the evaporating moisture from the melting snow is transported by a north wind far to the south and deposited as dew on the mountains surrounding Jerusalem. Franz Delitzsch, (Keil & Delitzsch), *Psalms, Commentary on the Old Testament*: "If we compare the two figures, we find that the point of the comparison is the uniting power of brotherly feeling, as that which unites in heart and soul those who are most distant from one another locally, and also brings them together in outward circumstance. If this is the point of the comparison, then Aaron's beard and the hem of his garments stand just as diametrically opposed to one another as the dew of Hermon and the mountains of Zion."

⁴ 133:3 - Zion, for there the LORD commanded the blessing -- life forever: The psalmist, David, closes by stating that Yahweh has commanded His blessing, eternal life, in connection with Zion. How can this be? Psalm 48:2 says, "Beautiful in elevation, **the joy of the whole earth**, Is Mount Zion *in* the far north, The city of the great King (emphasis mine)." Submission to Zion is ultimately submission to its great King, the King described in Isaiah 9:6-7 as the One whose name shall be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts [armies] will accomplish this."

This is the same King as the One described in Isaiah 11:1-11 as ultimately anointed by the Spirit of Yahweh so that He is omniscient -- He knows all, and so none can escape the truthfulness of His judgment. "...with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth" (11:4). He will judge with severity: "...with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked" (11:4). He will so change nature in His rule upon this earth that the wolf and lamb will dwell together, as will the leopard and young goat, and the calf and the young lion, led by a little boy (11:6)! Violence will cease "For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea" (11:9)!!! In that era, "The nations will resort to the root of Jesse" (11:10).

In eternity future, God will create the New Heavens and Earth. He will send down from heaven "the holy city, new Jerusalem." Then it will be true that "the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Rev. 21:2-4). Indeed, at "Zion ... the LORD commanded the blessing -- life forevermore" (Ps 133:3).

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 133

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