



Pointers and questions on the book of

Psalms:
Selection A

PSALMS

Session **10**

Psalm 122

Love for the city of God—the church

Summary

This is a 'song of ascents'—one of the psalms that people sang as they went up to Jerusalem for the great feasts of Israel. The psalmist describes the pleasure of arriving there for such a visit.

- v1-2** The happiness at the prospect of a visit to the Holy City was surpassed only by the pleasure of arriving there and standing inside the city gates.
- 3-5** The psalmist describes some of the features of Jerusalem in which he delights.
- 6-9** He prays that God's blessing of peace will rest on the city and declares his own intention to do all he can to make it prosper.

Questions to get you thinking

While Jerusalem in present-day Israel is an interesting tourist attraction, this psalm directs our thoughts as Christians to the 'heavenly Jerusalem', which is the church, God's redeemed community (see Hebrews 12:22). We should look at the psalm in that light.

1. What sort of building is 'the house of the Lord' (v1) today? See Ephesians 2:19-21.
2. How far do verses 1-2 express how you feel at the prospect of gathering with God's people and your arrival for the meeting?
3. What are the features of the church described in verses 3-5? Does our own church exemplify those features, do you think? And if there is room for improvement in those areas, how will they come about?
4. We tend to think of 'judgment' (v5) as something unpleasant, but here it is clearly seen as a great blessing. How does that reflect on the elders of the church and the government they exercise—including matters of discipline?
5. How does the church provide 'peace' and 'security' (v6-8) for its citizens?
6. What can we all do—and what can *you* in particular do—to 'seek' the church's 'prosperity' (v9)? Are you doing it?

