

**Psalms of the Degrees (Psalms 120-134)**  
**Celebrating Triumph Over Trouble Through Trust in God**  
**Psalm 133 - The Blessing of Living Together in Unity**

- 1 *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brothers to dwell together in unity!*
- 2 *It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
Coming down upon the beard,  
Even Aaron's beard,  
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.*
- 3 *It is like the dew of Hermon  
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forever.*

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** Psalm 133 was a psalm of David and very likely written to express David's delight in all twelve tribes of Israel uniting as one under his rule. When David was anointed king after Saul's death, he was recognized only by the tribe of Judah, while all the other tribes recognized Ish-boseth as their king, the only surviving son of King Saul. This resulted in two years of division, hostility, and civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David. After the murder of Ish-boseth by two of his own commanders, we read in 2 Samuel 5:1-3,

*Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them before the Lord at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel.*

After David made Jerusalem the capital of all Israel, he moved the ark of the covenant there to accomplish his one great passion, to unite all twelve tribes of Israel in the worship of Jehovah. Psalm 133 is a beautiful expression of God's blessing that comes down from heaven on God's people when they unite to worship God.

King Hezekiah shared David's passion to unite all twelve tribes in the worship of Jehovah. After Solomon's death the nation became divided into the northern and southern kingdoms with bitter rivalry and hostility toward one another. When Hezekiah became king of the southern kingdom of Judah, both nations had forsaken God & were walking in idolatry, immorality, & inhumanity, with God pronouncing judgment on both nations. In the sixth year of Hezekiah's reign, God's judgment fell on the northern kingdom when the Assyrians conquered the nation sending many into captivity. The southern kingdom averted God's judgment as a result of the spiritual revival experienced under Hezekiah's leadership.

Hezekiah was not satisfied with revival just in the southern kingdom, he desired the same for those remaining in the northern kingdom. He invited all twelve tribes to unite once again in Jerusalem to worship Jehovah in celebration of the Passover (2 Chronicles 30: 5-11). Hezekiah probably borrowed Psalm 133 from David because it perfectly expressed the joy and blessing of unity as the the people came together to worship Jehovah in the celebration of the Passover.

## LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOR TODAY

1. The AUTHORITY unity KNOWS - Allegiance to the heavenly Father and His Word is the only basis for unity and peace among God's children.

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!*  
Psalm 133: 1

*For he clung to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments...*  
2 Kings 18: 6

2. The DIRECTION unity FLOWS - Unity flows along God's line of authority, therefore, I must stay under the protection of my God-ordained leaders and defer to their directions unless contrary to the commands of God's Word.

*It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, coming down upon the edge of his robes.*  
Psalm 133: 2

*The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the Word of the Lord.*  
2 Chronicles 30: 12

3. The ATMOSPHERE in which unity GROWS - God desires His children to maintain an attitude of love toward one another that enables them to disagree without becoming disagreeable. Learning and growing in a love greater than our differences is as important as seeking to settle differences.

*It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forever.*  
Psalm 133: 3

*All the assembly of Judah rejoiced, with the priests and the Levites and all the assembly that came from Israel, both the sojourners who came from the land of Israel and those living in Judah. So there was great joy in Jerusalem, because there was nothing like this in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel. Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.*  
2 Chronicles 30: 25-27

