

In Isaiah 11:6-10 there is an amazing description of what life will ultimately be like in Israel. There is coming a day when peace will exist between all people and animals in the Middle East. It is predicted that there will be such peace in Israel that nations of the world will want to be there to experience it. It will be a good thing, it will be a beautiful thing and it will be a blessing of God.

Psalm 133 is a song of ascents that was written by David. It was apparently a Psalm that was written at a worship gathering, because there is a reference to the Aaronic priesthood (133:2). Only two Psalms begin with the word “behold,” this one and Psalm 134. **We see in Psalm 134 that it is in the context of the sanctuary (134:2) and we see in Psalm 133 that it is in the context of brothers (133:1). So we conclude that this Psalm was written in the context of the people of God, the family of God gathering together to worship.**

So this was a wonderful thing that David saw. He had, as one writer said, a sense of “holy joy.” He got some glimpses of this when he was king, but there are prophetic things here that are still in the future. He saw some gathering in Jerusalem, probably one of the festival gatherings in which all of the people were united. There was a unified spirit the people had as they gathered to worship God and hear the Word of God.

By virtue of the fact that David begins the Psalm with the word “Behold,” he is basically saying look at this. Take a look at this amazing spectacle. We have all of the people of Israel gathered together to worship God in a spirit of unity.

Just imagine what a day it will be when all of Israel from all different nations have gathered together in Jerusalem to worship God together as one family of God. It will be an amazing spectacle.

The point of the Psalm is not too hard to see:

HAVING UNITY AND PEACE AMONG BROTHERS WHEN THEY GATHER TO WORSHIP IS A WONDERFUL BLESSING OF GOD AND A WONDERFUL THING TO SEE.

We may make a wonderful Church Age application of this Psalm. It is a wonderful thing to gather together as God’s people to worship God. It is a wonderful thing to experience. I just had someone say that there seems to be such a loving and caring and unified spirit in the church. That is a beautiful thing.

In order to have this kind of unity, people must love God and His Word. When people gather together to worship God as a united unit because they love God and His Word, it is a beautiful thing.

John Phillips told a story of a father who had a family of quarreling sons. One day he called his sons together and he picked out the strongest son and he handed him a stick and told the son to snap it. The son did so with ease.

Then the man handed him two sticks and again he snapped them with ease. Finally the man handed him six sticks and the young man could not snap them. The father said to his son, there is strength in unity and weakness in individuality (*Exploring Psalms*, Vol. 2, p. 537).

The noun “brothers” may refer to physical brothers, spiritual brothers or national brothers. Certainly it is a tremendous blessing when you have brothers who are unified in their commitment to God and His Word. More than likely here it refers to the covenant brotherhood of those who are Jewish in the context of loving God and his Word. **Israel has been divided and dispersed and it will be an amazing moment to eventually have all Jews together in Jerusalem loving the Lord and the Word and worshipping God.**

This brotherly unity is not promoting the idea that unity among the James brothers or the Dalton brothers or the Younger brothers or the Menendez brothers is good. These brothers were unified in robbery and murder. Their unity was evil. This is speaking about a unity that exists among brothers in the context of what is right before God. This is a wonderful thing. David saw that for Israel.

We think that the primary point of this Psalm is that it is a wonderful thing when you have brothers who are gathering together to worship God in a unified way. For Israel to gather in Jerusalem to all worship God was something David saw. He saw Israeli brothers gather together in order to worship.

Now there are four points David makes in this Psalm:

POINT #1 – Unity among brothers is good. **133:1a**

The Hebrew word “good” (tov) is one that means to be good not only in the sense of being beautiful and positive, this word carries with it the idea of being at a distinguished level of upright excellence that brings happiness and the blessings of God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 319).

It is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell together in unity. The word good means it is beautiful. It is a beautiful thing when people live together and get along in unity.

Of course to have that unity, one must have a relationship with God. If one is right with God and the others aren't, there won't be unity.

Now unity between people is something God must give. You cannot organize unity. You can try, but it won't work. People join clubs and movements and they unify themselves with some cause, but that cannot produce real unity between people.

We had a ministry in Pocatello with a fractured church and we wanted to organize a family camp to try to mend relationships. Arguments broke out about the family camp. Who would be invited and who would not be invited. You cannot organize unity.

John Phillips told the story of a time he was stationed in Palestine. He was stationed on the docks of Haifa as part of a detachment of troops. On his first Sunday morning he left camp and decided to go to church. He made his way down a street and found a sign that said, "Gospel Hall." He knew that it was an assembly of believers so in he went. He said he immediately felt at home with likeminded people who loved the Lord. After the morning service he was invited to the home of a young Christian Arab for lunch. On Sunday evening he was invited to the home of a Russian believer for supper and after the Sunday evening service, he was invited to the home of a Palestinian Jew. This all happened in one day. He said I had unity with every one of these people. No lodge could produce that. You could not organize that. This is produced by the Spirit of God (*Ibid.*, pp. 538-539).

POINT #2 – Unity among brothers is pleasant. **133:1b**

The word "pleasant" is in a plural form, which means this is a majestic level of brightness and beauty of God's grace and favor (*Ibid.*, pp. 554-555).

I understand this to mean that when you see brothers and sisters who love the Lord and the Word and they gather in a unified spirit, it is something rare and it majestically shines forth the grace of God.

It is a very rare blessing of God to see a unified group of people who love the Lord and love the Word. It is a beautiful thing to see.

POINT #3 – Unity among brothers is illustrated. **133:2-3a**

There are two illustrations given of unity in these verses:

Illustration #1 - The illustration of precious priestly oil and anointing. **133:2**

Oil in the O.T. was used for several things, but it was especially used to sanctify and set something apart for the sacred service of God. David himself had been anointed to be King. Precious oil was used for priestly anointing. David saw a time when all of Israel was functioning in a priestly way.

We may remember in Exodus 19:6 that God said, "and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This was a time when David saw the entire nation functioning together as priests for God.

But he has in his mind the anointing of priests.

There are three things he reveals:

- 1) Oil was poured upon the head of the priest.
- 2) Oil dripped down upon the beard of the priest.
- 3) Oil dripped down on the garments of the priest.

Now the garments of the priest contained a breastplate that listed all twelve tribes of Israel. Obviously it is a beautiful thing when God's people get together to worship God and the priest and the people are unified in this priestly focus.

Now the comparison is that when brothers live together in unity, it is a priestly blessing.

We know from the N.T. doctrine that one of the emblems of the Holy Spirit is that of anointing oil, specifically His Word in producing unity (Eph. 4:3-6).

Illustration #2 - The illustration of the dew coming down from the mountains of Zion. **133:3a**

Unity is refreshing. Mt. Hermon was in the north and Zion was in the south. Both share in the blessings of the dew of those mountains. The point is there is a blessed unity that is produced by God among His people. It did not matter if they came from the high mountains of Mt. Hermon or the mountains of Zion. They all had God's blessing. Heavy dew refreshes everyone in every place. Unity refreshes everyone in every place.

Now high mountain areas get a lot of moisture and heavy precipitation. They get rain, snow and dew. In the dead of summer, when the lower elevations are parched dry, you can ascend to higher altitudes and find rich green moist grass.

Dew is used in the Bible for several things. It is needed by summer crops in order to grow. When God sent dew to help the crops, it was considered to be a great blessing (Zech. 8:12).

When God's people gather together from all parts to worship Him in unity, it is considered to be a great blessing.

POINT #4 – Unity among brothers is from God. **133:3b**

Unity is a blessing of God. God is the One who commands His blessings on people. When God's people have that unity, He is blessing them and He will bless them. There are blessings of God that you will miss if you do not purpose to be unified in your love for God's worship and Word with your brothers and sisters.

The greatest unity to have is unity with God because that gives everlasting life.

You can travel the world and miss the blessings of God.

Do not miss how the Psalm ends—"life forever." One day there will be a unity that will exist forever. All of God's people will be living together, loving God and His Word, loving each other and worshipping God. Life will one day be this way forever.