

“But you, O Lord, will sit on your throne forever. Your fame will endure to every generation.” Psalms 102:12 NLT

lectio // Psalm 102:12-28

This chapter in Psalms is really pretty sad. This verse probably catches the most positive idea of the chapter. David did not write this one, they don't know who wrote it. There are similar feelings among David's team who all feel this way about Jerusalem though. To the folks who lived in this ancient culture, the city of Jerusalem was everything! It's not just God's city, or hill or home, it represented every good part of national pride and security that existed at that time. The psalmist writes, “For your people love every stone in her walls and cherish even the dust in her streets.” This is how much the people believed in the city and more specifically, the temple being the focal point of God's authority over the earth. Oh, but what sadness and devastation we find in the story of this holy place. Today, it sits in shambles. Today it is occupied by multicultural humans who do not believe in THE God, but have traded out their faith for a vindictive, violent God or a passive religious shell of systems and dead rituals. The place is just not the same today. Yes, there will be a new Jerusalem, that God himself promises. Yes, it will be glorious. But not because of a hill or a temple or a physical spot - it's because of God's presence. I am reminded that of all the beauty in our planet, God reminds us that it is simply a “footstool.” Nothing will or can compare to God's presence. Nothing can contain his glory. And, nothing ever did nor ever will. As much as humans long for a building that holds precious memories, like your first home, and not for God himself, we will have missed the point. Bricks and sticks have never walked with us in the cool of the evening, nor did stucco and speakers die for our sins. I've never once been embraced by a building, but I have been hugged by God's presence. For the Lord will rebuild Jerusalem. He will appear in his glory.

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Dad,

As you can tell, I'm just not a huge fan of buildings that replace or substitute who you are. I have seen some beautiful cathedrals and churches, but they can't compare even to the wonder of your creation. Yellowstone, Emerald Bay, the Grand Canyon, Half Dome and others speak far more elegantly than our steeples and stained glass. So, I look forward to the New Jerusalem, but that's because you're there!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root