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Psalm 131

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 131.

Topics.

- LORD, I do not occupy myself with things too marvellous for me.
- I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother.
- Hope in the LORD forevermore.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 131:1:

1

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

O LORD, I do not Occupy Myself with things too Marvellous for Me.

The English Standard Bible says:

- **Psalm 131:1:** O LORD, my (David's) heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me.

The King James Bible says:

- **Psalm 131:1:** LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. (Psalm 131:1).

Ascents: means a climactic progression or journey to a higher place it carries the idea of a thought arising.

The things David does not bother to occupy himself with are the things that are beyond humans understanding they are things that only God Himself can know. David is simply saying he does not waste his time intellectually assuming or speculating on things that cannot be known to satisfy his pride or to look intellectually superior or important to others, by speaking words that are only man's clever speculations and assumptions.

PSALM 131:2

I have Calmed My Soul, Like a Weaned Child with its Mother.

- **Psalm 131:2:** But I (David's) have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

The King James Bible says:

- **131:2:** Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul *is* even as a weaned child. (Psalm 131:2).

The figure here is taken from a baby's first real sorrow when they are denied access to the mother's breast. The picture is of a child that after its usual troubles and sorrow of being weaned has accepted its fate and is quiet and easy in its mother's arms without the breast which had always its comfort and nourishment. The verse is in the context of David not occupying himself with things too great and too marvelous for him, so it carries the idea that David calmed his mind by accepting his present state of things and committing himself to trusting that God knows what is best for him like a weaned child after some sorrow accepts its mother's denial of the comfort and nourishment of her breast that it had been so accustomed to.

Like a weaned child is troublesome and fretful while in the weaning stage, but in a few days it accepts that it will no longer have the milk it has been used to and moves onto stronger food likewise David surrendered all ambition and accepted troubling circumstances beyond his control in the same way as the weaned child brings their mind to accept that they will no longer be comforted and nourished by their mother's breast. No matter what aspirations and ambitions David might have had if they were denied him, he like a weaned child accepted that reality and wholly depended upon and trusted in God's grace, strength and wisdom and His providence and foresight.

The practical application to all the faithful: as an infant child relies solely upon its mother's comfort, care and nourishment for its support, likewise all the faithful must rely upon God for their comfort, care and nourishment for the mind to be calmed and have mental peace. When circumstances beyond our control bring trouble to our mind, to find mental peace and calm we must bring our mind to accept the condition as a weaned child does when its mother denies it the milk it has for so long enjoyed. The flesh is desirous and covets many worldly things, but we must allow God's grace and love to wean us from these things as a mother weans an infant child from her breast for its good and its future growth.

David found rest and peace in God by being content with the things he could know and understand. Often this is the only way those who are in difficult and confusing circumstances who love God will find peace, sometimes we simply have to give up trying to understand what God is doing and surrender the circumstance and our lives to faith and hope and trust in the love of God as the weaned child trusts in the love of its mother.

PSALM 131:3

Hope in the LORD Forevermore.

- **Psalm 131:3:** O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

David has learned a key to peace and rest and wants to pass it onto everyone who loves God, that key is, don't try to understand things that cannot be known, but remain and live in faith and hope always. It is interesting that in many of David's previous Psalms, he comes to God in total confusion wondering why he is in such anguish and what the LORD is doing with him, he now seems to have found the only answer to many of these moments in life is to surrender and yield to God and live in trust, faith and hope knowing that though we may never know, God does.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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