

Psa. 131:0 A Song of degrees of David.

Three times each year the men of Israel were to come to the temple and present themselves before the Lord.

Deut. 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

The fifteen Psalms that are called the songs of *degrees* (elevation, journey to a higher place, go up) were to be sung as they ascended the temple mount.

Psa. 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.

Again, as most often in the psalms, this psalm is addressed to the LORD, YHWH, the self-existent eternal God.

David positions himself in humility before God. He is guarding his heart and his eyes. Pride is most apt to rear its ugly head if we begin to think of ourselves as more worthy than others or allow ourselves to become tempted through a desire for recognition or a desire for something that appeals to us through our eyes. Isn't that what happened to Eve? The psalmist is recognizing his limitations and not pretending to know more than he does.

David's recognition of God's hatred of pride and its harmful consequences in one's life is evidently an area in which he trained Solomon well. The Proverbs are full of this truth.

Prov. 6:16-17 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look....

Prov. 11:2 ¶ *When* pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.

Prov. 16:5 ¶ Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD:

Prov. 16:18 ¶ Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

In my opinion, pride is the root of all sin. Any decision or choice we make that goes against God's revealed will in His word is a sin of pride; we are in essence saying that we know better than God what is right.

I couldn't help but think of the words of the prophet Micah.

Mic. 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Psa. 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.

David goes on to describe himself as a quiet, contented little child. The Hebrew for the word "behaved" also included the idea of being submissive.

Psa. 131:3 Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever.

The connection seems to be that David's desire is that Israel will respond in the same way to YHWH, their heavenly Father. His desire is that they are as submissive, contented children before God forever. Sad to say, this desire of David's was not to be fulfilled.