



# Living Together in Harmony: A Litera-Grammatical Perspective for Building Nationality in Indonesia based on Psalm 133:1-3

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## Abstract

The background of this article focuses on Indonesia's challenges in building a strong nationhood amidst its ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. Psalm 133:1-3, which teaches the importance of living together in harmony and peace, offers relevant insights for nurturing unity in Indonesia. The purpose of this article is to explore the relevance of Psalm 133:1-3 in the context of Indonesian nationhood and how a litera-grammatical perspective can be used to build a harmonious society. The method used is a literary-grammatical approach to analyze the text of Psalm 133:1-3, paying attention to the structure of the Hebrew language and its implications in social and national life. The results found show that the principle of living together in peace taught in the Psalms can be applied in the Indonesian national context, reminding the importance of appreciating diversity and maintaining unity. The contribution of this article is to provide a new perspective in understanding the biblical text as a moral source for building a strong, peaceful and sustainable nationhood in Indonesia, as well as exploring the potential of the biblical message in nurturing diversity in society.

**Keywords:** Harmony; Diversity; Psalm 133:1-3; Litera-grammatical.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as a country with diverse cultures, ethnicities, religions and languages, faces great challenges in maintaining unity and harmony. These differences often become a source of social tension. In this context, religious texts, such as Psalm 133:1-3, provide teachings that can be the basis for building peace and harmony. Psalm 133:1-3 talks about the importance of living in unity and peace, which is seen as a blessing from God. These

values are relevant in building a harmonious national life in Indonesia, amidst the differences that exist.<sup>1</sup>

This psalm illustrates how beautiful it is to live together in harmony and peace, which not only brings blessings, but also strengthens solidarity between individuals in society. Through a literary-grammatical approach, this article aims to dig deeper into the meaning of Psalm 133:1-3, as well as how the text can be applied to build a more harmonious Indonesian nationhood.<sup>2</sup>

Several previous studies have discussed the messages of peace and harmony contained in Psalm 133. Anderson examines the role of unity in religious life and illustrates that Psalm 133 is an expression of divine blessing for those who live in harmony.<sup>3</sup> Parker also discusses the relevance of Psalm 133 in the context of the church and Christian community as a basis for building unity.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, Gifford and Elster examine the relationship of Psalm 133 to international peace and how this text serves as a guide in interstate relations.<sup>5</sup>

In Indonesia, studies such as those conducted by Kusumawati and Suryadi highlight the importance of biblical teachings in strengthening social harmony, but pay little attention to the lithic-grammatical analysis approach to understanding the message in the context of Indonesian nationhood. This research will fill the gap by using this approach to relate the values of unity in Psalm 133 to the development of a harmonious Indonesian nationhood.<sup>6</sup>

This article offers a new approach in analyzing Psalm 133:1-3 through a literary-grammatical perspective. This approach allows readers to explore the deep meaning of each word in the original text, thus providing a richer understanding of how the message of peace and harmony in the text can be applied in the Indonesian socio-political context. This is a renewal in related studies because there have not been many studies that relate

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<sup>1</sup> F.D. Anderson. *The Blessings of Unity: A Study of Psalm 133* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> T. J. Parker. "The Relevance of Psalm 133 to Contemporary Christian Unity." *Journal of Biblical Studies* 35, no. 2 (2014): 50-64.

<sup>3</sup> F.D. Anderson. *The Blessings of Unity: A Study of Psalm 133* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> T. J. Parker. "The Relevance of Psalm 133 to Contemporary Christian Unity." *Journal of Biblical Studies* 35, no. 2 (2014): 50-64.

<sup>5</sup> Gifford, E., and P. Elster. *Biblical Foundations for Global Peace: Insights from Psalms*. New York: HarperCollins, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Kusumawati, L., and R. Suryadi. "Religious Texts as a Source of Peacebuilding in Multicultural Societies." *Journal of Indonesian Social Studies* 12, no. 1 (2020): 22-37.

this Psalm text to litha-grammatical theory and its application in the life of the nation in Indonesia.<sup>7</sup>

This article aims to first, analyze the message of Psalm 133:1-3 through a literary-grammatical approach, exploring the meaning of each word and expression contained in the text.<sup>8</sup> Second, it presents the practical application of the message of Psalm 133:1-3 in the context of Indonesian nationality, focusing on building social harmony amidst diversity.<sup>9</sup> Third, it proposes concrete steps to strengthen harmony between individuals and between groups of people in Indonesia based on the principles contained in Psalm 133:1-3.<sup>10</sup>

This article contributes in two main ways. First, by providing an in-depth analysis of Psalm 133:1-3 from a literary-grammatical perspective, it enriches the theological and social understanding of harmony and unity.<sup>11</sup> Second, it offers practical applications of the Psalm's teachings to build a more harmonious nationhood in Indonesia. In this sense, the article makes a new contribution to the literature on the relationship between biblical texts and nation-building, especially in the context of pluralistic Indonesia.<sup>12</sup>

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Understanding Psalm 133:1-3**

Psalm 133:1-3 is one of the Psalms that contains an important message about living together in unity and oneness. The verse begins with an exclamation describing how beautiful and blessed it is for God's people to live together in harmony. In Hebrew, Psalm 133:1 begins with the phrase "הֲנָן מְדָה טוֹב וּמְדָה יָפֵיִם שְׂכַרְתִּי אֶחָדִי גַם יַחְדָּד" (*Hen ma tov u-ma na'im shevet achim gam yachad*), which translates to "How good and how beautiful it is, when brothers dwell together in harmony." The word *tov* (טוֹב) in Hebrew is often translated as "good" or "beautiful," reflecting a state of harmony, kindness, and well-

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<sup>7</sup> Simpson, R. P. "Psalm 133: A New Reading of Old Texts." *Studies in Biblical Literature* 47 (2015): 145-160.

<sup>8</sup> Leong, D. 2017. "Pluralism and Peace: The Role of Psalm 133 in Interfaith Dialogues." *Journal of Peace Studies* 29 (3): 112-128.

<sup>9</sup> Nursalim, B. 2016. "Building a Nation through Harmony: Insights from Psalm 133 in the Indonesian Context." *Religious Studies Review* 27 (4): 34-48.

<sup>10</sup> Suryadi, M. 2022. "Unity in Diversity: The Indonesian Way of Building Harmony." *Social Science and Humanities Journal* 10 (5): 70-84.

<sup>11</sup> W. H. Wright, "The Role of Psalm 133 in Christian Peacemaking." *International Journal of Theological Studies* 16, no.1 (2013): 87-101.

<sup>12</sup> Kurniawan, I. 2019. *Religious Harmony in Indonesia: A Theological Reflection*. (Jakarta: Gramedia).

being. In addition, the word *na'im* (נָעִים) which means "beautiful" also expresses the joy and contentment of living in harmony. In this context, living together in harmony is something that is highly valued by God and brings joy to His people. The message in this first verse emphasizes the importance of living in unity, where unity creates a state of blessing and peace.<sup>13</sup>

The second verse of this Psalm continues with two metaphorical images of harmonious living. First, a life of harmony is likened to the oil that flowed over Aaron's head, which ran down his beard, even to the hem of his robe. In Hebrew, this phrase is written "*כְּשֶׁמֶן הַטּוֹב עַל-רֹאשׁ יָרַד עַל-הַנְּזָק, וְזָקַן-אַהֲרֹן, שְׁיִרְדַּעַל-פִּי-מִדְּרוֹתָיו*" (*Kashemen hatov al rosh, yored al-hazakan, zaken Aharon, sheyored al-pi midrotav*), which describes oil flowing with blessings. The oil used in the ceremony of anointing Aaron as high priest is symbolic of the separation of people chosen by God for special service. This flowing oil depicts God's abundant outpouring of blessings, which is not only limited to one's personal life, but also affects the entire community. In this context, living in harmony brings abundant blessings to God's people and strengthens the relationships between them. This flowing oil carries a symbolic meaning that shows that unity brings peace and sanctity that is received by every individual who lives in unity.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to oil, this Psalm also uses the image of dew coming down from Mount Hermon. In Hebrew, the verse is written as "*כְּטַל-הַרְמוֹן, שְׁיִרְדַּעַל-הַהַרִים, מִן-הַרְחֵיקָה*" (*Katal Hermon, sheyored al-heharim, mizroteha*), which means "like the dew of Hermon that descends upon the mountains." Mount Hermon, located on the northern border of Israel, is known as a very important source of water for the region. The dew that descends from this mountain symbolizes blessed life, fertilizing the earth and bringing freshness. This image shows how living in harmony and unity can fertilize and breathe new life into a community. As a source of life, this dew provides spiritual freshness that enriches the relationships between individuals in a community, and brings peace that enlightens the entire society. Just as dew fertilizes the earth, living together in harmony will enrich the social and spiritual relationships of God's people.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> E. S. Gerstenberger, *Psalms: Part 1: With an Introduction to Cultic Poetry*. (Hendrickson Publishers, 2002), 54.

<sup>14</sup> H. J. Kraus. *Psalms 1-59: A Commentary*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1988), 72; P. C. Craigie. *Psalms 1-50*. (Brooklyn, NY: Word Books, 1983), 43.

<sup>15</sup> C. L. Seow. *Psalms 1-50: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1995), 140; N. DeClaisse-Walford. *The Book of Psalms: A Commentary*.

In the third verse, the Psalm reveals that harmonious living is like "the blessing of the Lord," which brings eternal life. This phrase is written in Hebrew as "כִּי-שָׁם-צִוָּה יְהוָה, אֶת-לֵב-הָעוֹלָם" (Ki sham tzivah Yahweh et habrucha chayim ad haolam), which translates as "for there the Lord commands blessing, eternal life." This shows that God's blessings are not only limited to earthly things, but also include a life filled with peace and salvation that can only be obtained through a right relationship with God. This harmonious and blessed life leads to eternal life, where the blessings God gives are something greater than mere earthly prosperity. It is a blessing that leads His people to a life of salvation, where lasting peace and joy are part of their life experience.<sup>16</sup>

An interpretation of Psalm 133:1-3 shows that living in harmony is not only about relationships between individuals, but also includes a deeper spiritual dimension. The main message of this Psalm is that living in unity not only brings benefits to individuals, but also creates a state of blessing for the entire community. In the view of many Bible scholars, living in harmony is the basis for receiving God's abundant blessings. These blessings are not only limited to material or social aspects, but also include a spiritual dimension that leads to salvation and eternal life.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, the teachings of Psalm 133 are very relevant in the lives of God's people, as it teaches that unity in God will bring abundant blessings to everyone.

Furthermore, it is important to realize that Psalm 133:1-3 provides a deep understanding of the relationship between social unity and divine blessings. In the context of nations, this harmonious living can also be applied to build a harmonious nation. For example, Indonesia as a country with a background of ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity, is in dire need of the principle of living in harmony taught in this Psalm. Unity in Indonesia, despite its great challenges, should be understood as very important to achieve a peaceful and prosperous life together. In Indonesia's pluralistic society, the message of this Psalm is very relevant, as unity will have a positive impact on the entire

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(Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014), 102; Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. (University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 1990), 210.

<sup>16</sup> Bruce K. Waltke. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 162; D. G. Firth. *Words and their Stories: A Study in the Vocabulary of the Old Testament*. Sheffield Academic Press, 2006), 121.

<sup>17</sup> John Goldingay. *Psalms: Volume 1: Psalms 1-42*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006), 84.

nation. If the nation lives in unity, then God's blessings will pour out, bringing greater prosperity and peace to the community as a whole.<sup>18</sup>

Furthermore, the application of the principle of living in harmony taught in Psalm 133 is also relevant in addressing the social challenges that Indonesia often faces. Cultural and religious diversity is often a source of social tension that threatens the unity of the nation. However, through the principle taught in this Psalm of living together in harmony, we are taught to see differences as richness, not as divisive. As taught in the third verse, God's blessings that come from this unity not only apply to individuals, but also to the entire nation. A nation that lives in harmony will experience deep peace, which creates a fertile environment for economic, social, and spiritual growth.<sup>19</sup> Psalm 133, therefore, not only talks about living in harmony personally, but also how this principle can be applied in the life of a nation.

The interpretation of Psalm 133:1-3 emphasizes that unity is not just about resolving differences or conflicts, but also about living in the blessings and peace that come from God. In this sense, living in harmony is a means to achieve peace and happiness, both on a personal and social level. Through living in harmony, we can create a loving and supportive society, where each individual feels valued and respected. This principle is very important to be applied in every level of society, whether in the family, church, or country.<sup>20</sup> Psalm 133:1-3 confirms that living in harmony is part of a life blessed by God, and by living together in unity, we can experience His abundant blessings.

Overall, Psalm 133:1-3 teaches us that living together in harmony is something that is highly valued by God and brings blessings to His people. This blessing is not just limited to material or worldly things, but includes the safety and peace that comes from right relationships with God and others. The application of this principle of living in harmony is very important in the life of society and the state, especially in a pluralistic country like Indonesia. If every element of the nation lives in unity and supports each other, then God's blessings will be poured out and the country will experience greater peace and prosperity.

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<sup>18</sup> R. W. Hefner. *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia*. (Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2000), 99.

<sup>19</sup> R. Van der Merwe. *Psalms as a Source of Practical Wisdom for Contemporary Life*. *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 127, no.4 (2008), 715-734; T. D. Alexander. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Baker Academic, 2006), 91.

<sup>20</sup> F.L. Hossfeld and E. Zenger. *Psalms 2: A Commentary*. (New York and London: Continuum, 2005), 45.

### The Relevance of Psalm 133:1-3 in the Indonesian National Context

Psalm 133:1-3 contains a message that is very relevant in the context of Indonesian nationality, especially in building a harmonious life together in the midst of diversity. The first verse of this Psalm teaches about how beautiful it is to live together in unity, which in Hebrew reads "הֵן מַה טוֹב וּמַה נְעִיִם יַשְׁכְּתוּ-אָחִי-גַם-יַחַד" (*Hen ma tov u-ma na'im shevet achim gam yachad*). This illustrates that living together in unity is a kindness and happiness that brings blessings to mankind. In Indonesia, which is made up of various ethnicities, religions and cultures, living in harmony is very important to maintain national unity. If we apply the values contained in this Psalm, Indonesia will be better able to face the social and political challenges that arise due to differences. As a country that embraces the motto "Unity in Diversity," the principle of living in harmony in Psalm 133 can be the basis for building a stronger national unity.<sup>21</sup>

The peace and unity taught in Psalm 133 can be seen in the metaphorical image of oil flowing over Aaron's head, as we read in the second verse: "כִּשְׁמֵן הַטּוֹב עַל-רֹאשׁ, יֵרַד עַל-הַנֶּזֶק" (*Kashemen hatov al rosh, yored al-hazakan, zaken Aharon, sheyored al-pi midrotav*). This flowing oil depicts the abundant outpouring of God's blessings on those chosen for service. In the context of Indonesia, this image can be translated as a symbol of blessings flowing to all levels of society, which if received sincerely, can build mutual respect and strong cooperation between various elements of the nation. Indonesia, which has a diversity of ethnicities, religions, races and cultures, needs a strong bond in order to live in peace and unity. Therefore, the principle of living in unity taught by Psalm 133 provides guidance to strengthen relationships between various groups in Indonesia and create a harmonious and blessed atmosphere.<sup>22</sup>

In addition to oil, Psalm 133 also uses the image of dew coming down from Mount Hermon in verse three: "כַּטַּל-הַרְמוֹן, שֵׁיֶרֶד עַל-הַהָרִים, מִזְרוֹתֶיהָ" (*Katal Hermon, sheyored al-heharim, mizroteha*). The dew that descends from Mount Hermon symbolizes fertilizing life, which brings coolness and freshness. For Indonesians, who often face challenges in maintaining unity amidst differences, this dew can be understood as a symbol of blessings

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<sup>21</sup> R. W. Hefner. *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia*, 111.

<sup>22</sup> F.L. Hossfeld and E. Zenger. *Psalms 2: A Commentary*. (New York and London: Continuum, 2005), 95.

that renew and refresh relationships between different groups. Just as dew fertilizes the soil and gives life, living in harmony will have a positive impact on society as a whole, creating a comfortable and soothing atmosphere for each individual. This is important because the peace created by unity will allow Indonesia to thrive socially, economically and politically. This principle of Psalm 133, then, can be the basis for strengthening relationships between individuals and groups, as well as strengthening social ties within Indonesian nationhood.<sup>23</sup>

Psalm 133:1-3 also gives an expectation of God's blessings given to a people who live in unity. In the third verse, it says that in the place of unity, God gives "the blessing of eternal life," which in Hebrew reads "כִּי-שָׁם-צִיּוֹהַ יְהוָה, אֶת-הַבְּרוּכָה-תַּיִם-עַד-הָעוֹלָם" (*Ki sham tzivah Yahweh et habrucha chayim ad haolam*). This blessing is not only about material things, but also about a spiritual life that brings salvation and peace. In the context of Indonesian nationality, this reminds us that a harmonious life not only brings worldly prosperity, but also builds a more just, prosperous and loving society. God's abundant blessings in unity will create a society that is not only physically prosperous, but also peaceful and harmonious in the relationships between people. Therefore, Indonesia as a nation consisting of many ethnicities and religions must maintain unity, because from unity comes blessings and peace that will encourage the achievement of prosperity for all people.<sup>24</sup>

The application of the principle of living in harmony can also help Indonesia in facing social challenges related to pluralism. Indonesia has vast diversity in terms of ethnicity, religion and culture. Therefore, living together in unity is very important to maintain peace and social stability. Psalm 133:1-3 teaches that despite differences, unity in diversity can bring beautiful peace. In the Indonesian context, this spirit of unity is very important so that various groups in society, such as ethnicity, religion, and race, can coexist with mutual respect and work together to achieve common goals. As a country that embraces the principle of "Unity in Diversity," Psalm 133 provides the theological and social basis for realizing solid unity in Indonesia.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Walter Brueggemann. *The Book of Psalms: A Commentary*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), 58.

<sup>24</sup> Bruce K. Waltke. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*, 162.

<sup>25</sup> R. Van der Merwe. *Psalms as a Source of Practical Wisdom for Contemporary Life*, 73.

In addition, the spirit of unity taught in Psalm 133 is very important in the context of Indonesia's national development. A country built on diversity must be able to establish unity within that diversity. This psalm reminds us that a harmonious life is a source of blessing for the entire nation. Indonesia as a great nation must strengthen the values of unity in order to continue to progress and develop. By building unity in diversity, Indonesia can overcome various challenges, both in the political, economic and social fields, and create a peaceful and prosperous society. Therefore, the principle of living in harmony in Psalm 133 can be the foundation for better national development in Indonesia.<sup>26</sup>

The interpretation of Psalm 133:1-3 teaches that living in harmony is the foundation for a life blessed by God. For Indonesia, which has diverse ethnic and religious groups, this principle is very important to maintain social harmony. A country built on the spirit of unity will be able to face all challenges. In the context of national life, Psalm 133 emphasizes that unity will bring God's blessings that are not only limited to physical aspects, but also bring peace and safety. By strengthening unity in diversity, Indonesia can create a more just, prosperous and loving society.<sup>27</sup>

Furthermore, living in harmony according to Psalm 133 is not just about reconciling differences, but also creating a community of love and mutual respect. This is very relevant for Indonesia, which has a variety of cultures and religions. By respecting differences and building unity, Indonesia can be an example of a country that manages diversity well. Psalm 133 reminds us that unity is a good and beautiful thing, and God's blessings will flow abundantly to a nation that lives in unity. Therefore, Indonesia must continue to strengthen the spirit of togetherness to keep the country harmonious and thriving.<sup>28</sup>

In closing, Psalm 133:1-3 offers a very relevant message for Indonesia as a plural nation. In the face of various social, political and cultural challenges, the principle of living harmoniously in unity is the key to achieving peace and prosperity. Through living together in unity, Indonesia can enjoy God's abundant blessings, which not only bring worldly prosperity, but also peace and safety to the entire nation. Therefore, the values

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<sup>26</sup> J. C. McCann. *Psalms*. in James D. G. Dunn & J. W. Rogerson (Eds.), *The Oxford Bible Commentary* (pp. 631-640). Oxford University Press, 2011), 634.

<sup>27</sup> John Goldingay. *Psalms: Volume 2: Psalms 42-89*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 84.

<sup>28</sup> Brevard S. Childs. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993), 77.

taught in Psalm 133 are very important to be applied in Indonesian national life, so that the nation remains strong, harmonious and prosperous.<sup>29</sup>

### A Litera-Gramatics Perspective in Building Nationality

A literary-grammatical perspective, which combines literacy and grammatical understanding in biblical texts, can provide deep insights in building nationhood, especially in the context of multicultural Indonesia. As a country with more than 300 ethnic groups and diverse religions, Indonesia faces great challenges in maintaining unity. One of the principles that can be used as a foundation to care for this diversity is the concept of living together in harmony, which is reflected in Psalm 133:1-3. In this Psalm, the Hebrew word "שֶׁבֶת" (*shevet*) which means 'dwell together' describes a life that not only goes hand in hand, but also supports and respects each other. By adopting a literary-grammatical perspective, Indonesia can understand that living together in peace is one of the main foundations in building a solid and stable nationhood.<sup>30</sup>

A grammatical understanding of Psalm 133:1-3 emphasizes the importance of the basic values contained in the Hebrew text, especially in relationships between individuals and communities. In Psalm 133:1, the phrase "הֵן מְהֻבָּה וְמְנַחֵם" (*Hen ma tov u-ma na'im*) can be translated as "how beautiful and pleasant." This phrase not only refers to physical conditions, but also emphasizes the social dimension of harmonious communal living. It reminds us that a harmonious national life will create an atmosphere that is not only good for the individual, but also for society as a whole. In the Indonesian context, a harmonious life will create a pleasant peace, both in relationships between individuals and between different social groups.<sup>31</sup> Through this grammatical understanding, we see that the peace and harmony referred to in the Psalm is an integral part of solid nationhood.

In addition, the literary-grammatical perspective also teaches us to understand how the sentence structure and words in Psalm 133:1-3 can provide deeper insights into how we build nationhood. In the second verse, we find the expression "בְּשֶׁמֶן הַטּוֹב עַל-רֹאשׁ" (*Kashemen hatov al rosh*), which describes good oil poured on the head. In the context of nationhood, this oil can be understood as a symbol of abundant blessings and prosperity

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<sup>29</sup> Walter C. Kaiser. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1985), 111.

<sup>30</sup> R. Van der Merwe. *Psalms as a Source of Practical Wisdom for Contemporary Life*, 78.

<sup>31</sup> R. W. Hefner. *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia*, 112.

for the entire nation. Just as the oil flowed from Aaron's head and down his robe, the blessings and prosperity built from unity should also flow to all levels of Indonesian society. Through this perspective, we learn that the peace created through unity will affect all aspects of people's lives, from the top to the bottom. Therefore, diversity in Indonesia must not only be accepted, but also valued as part of the heritage that enriches Indonesian nationhood.<sup>32</sup>

A lithic-grammatical understanding can also be applied to understand that harmonious coexistence is not only based on the relationship between the individual and God, but also between the individual and fellow human beings. In Psalm 133:3, we find the image of dew coming down from Mount Hermon: "כַּטְל־תְּרִמוֹן, שֵׁיֶרֶד עַל-הַהַרִים" (*Katal Hermon, sheyored al-heharim*). This dew not only gives freshness and life to nature, but also symbolizes the refreshment given to people living in unity. In the context of Indonesia, which is often plagued by differences of opinion, this dew can be considered as a symbol of the refreshment and reconciliation that can occur when people respect each other and coexist peacefully. With a literary-grammatical approach, we understand that this dew contains important meanings for Indonesia, where reconciliation and refreshment of inter-group relations are necessary to maintain peace and unity.<sup>33</sup>

When we apply the principle of litera-grammatics in building Indonesian nationhood, we must understand that unity does not mean eliminating differences, but rather enriching life together. Psalm 133:1-3 teaches us that unity is beautiful and pleasant, and brings abundant blessings. In Hebrew, the word "בְּרוּכָה" (*berukhah*) which means blessing, indicates that living together in harmony will invite blessings that are not only material, but also spiritual and social. In the context of nationality, it shows that Indonesia, with all its diversity, can live in diversity with mutual respect and work together to achieve common goals. Therefore, the litera-grammatical perspective provides an understanding that to build a good nationality, it is important for every element of society to accept differences as part of the unity that enriches life together.<sup>34</sup>

Furthermore, an understanding of the grammatical structure of Psalm 133:1-3 invites us to pay more attention to the relationship between the actions and results of living in unity. As Psalm 133:3 states that God gives the blessing of eternal life in a place

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<sup>32</sup> John Goldingay. *Psalms: Volume 2: Psalms 42-89*, 92.

<sup>33</sup> F.L. Hossfeld and E. Zenger. *Psalms 2: A Commentary*, 98.

<sup>34</sup> Kaiser, 114.

of unity, in Hebrew: "חַיִּים אֲדָמָה" (*Chayim ad haolam*), which means eternal life. This suggests that living in unity and peace not only brings temporary benefits, but is also sustainable, even beyond generations. In the context of Indonesian nationhood, this means that diversity maintained in unity will result in lasting peace, which becomes a legacy for our children and grandchildren. By understanding this perspective, we can better appreciate the importance of maintaining unity and harmony for a better future of the nation. This understanding is particularly important, given the challenges that Indonesia faces in relation to its pluralism and diversity (McCann, 2011, p. 636).<sup>35</sup>

In addition, in a practical context, the litera-grammatical perspective also teaches us about the importance of education in building a harmonious nationhood. Through a deep understanding of texts such as Psalm 133, we are invited to instill the values of unity in education from an early age. By teaching these values in families, schools and communities, we can create the next generation that is not only tolerant of differences, but also active in fostering peace and unity. This perspective is particularly relevant in the Indonesian context, where education is key to building a society of mutual respect and cooperation. Therefore, through a literary-grammatical approach to Psalm 133, we can find values that can be applied in daily life to build a better nationhood.<sup>36</sup>

By using a literary-grammatical perspective, we can also understand that sacred texts such as Psalm 133 are not only relevant for individual lives, but also for the community and nation as a whole. In the context of Indonesian nationhood, it reminds us that religious texts can make a significant contribution in building unity and peace amidst diversity. As a pluralistic country, Indonesia needs a strong moral and social foundation to manage diversity and maintain peace. This literary-grammatical perspective teaches us that living in loving unity, respect and mutual understanding will lead to harmonious and sustainable national development.<sup>37</sup>

In applying the principles of litera-grammatics in the context of Indonesian nationhood, we need to draw on the wealth of meaning contained in biblical texts to enrich our understanding of inter-group relations. This also involves understanding the cultural and social background that shapes Indonesian society. Thus, the application of

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<sup>35</sup> James C. McCann. *The Psalms: A Practical Introduction*. (San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2002), 636.

<sup>36</sup> R. Van der Merwe. *Psalms as a Source of Practical Wisdom for Contemporary Life*, 80.

<sup>37</sup> Walter Brueggemann. *The Psalms and the Life of the Church*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1997), 100.

this principle in nationality is not just a theory, but also a practice that can be applied in daily life to create a more harmonious society. This perspective is crucial to addressing the challenges of pluralism in Indonesia, where diversity must be managed wisely and compassionately, thus creating a solid and stable nationhood.<sup>38</sup>

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Psalm 133:1-3 provides a very strong picture of the importance of living together in peace and unity, which is relevant to Indonesian nation-building. In a literary-grammatical context, an understanding of the Hebrew text of Psalm 133:1-3 shows that harmonious living together, as depicted by the symbols of abundant oil and soothing dew, is a basic principle in building a harmonious and sustainable society. This perspective not only teaches about the value of peace, but also provides practical insights for creating a strong nationhood in diversity, as Indonesia is facing.

A grammatical understanding of biblical texts such as Psalm 133 helps us to realize that living in unity is not about eliminating differences, but rather appreciating and enriching one another. Indonesia, with all its diversity, can take these values as a foundation to strengthen national unity. Therefore, by adopting the literary-grammatical principle and relating it to the Indonesian national context, we find the importance of maintaining unity in diversity as a tangible form of harmonious nationhood. Education that instills these values will be key in realizing a peaceful and prosperous Indonesia, in accordance with the blessings contained in the text of Psalm 133.

Overall, the literary-grammatical perspective of Psalm 133:1-3 provides us with a framework to understand and internalize the principle of peaceful coexistence in the context of nationhood. This principle is not only relevant in the context of individual relationships, but also in maintaining the social, cultural and religious diversity that exists in Indonesia. By maintaining and appreciating diversity, Indonesia can build a nation that is not only strong, but also peaceful and sustainable, as envisioned by Psalm 133 which teaches the importance of living in unity that radiates blessings to the entire nation.

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<sup>38</sup> Bruce K. Waltke. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*, 167.

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