

## Psalms 120-125 – Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Psalm 120** -- A Song of Ascents. 1 In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me. 2 Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue. 3 What shall be given to you, Or what shall be done to you, You false tongue? 4 Sharp arrows of the warrior, With coals of the broom tree! 5 Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech, That I dwell among the tents of Kedar! 6 My soul has dwelt too long With one who hates peace. 7 I am for peace; But when I speak, they are for war.

- Psalm 120 is the first of 15 Psalms that are "Songs of Ascents", which were sung as they made their ascent up to Jerusalem.
- One commentator suggests that the reason there are 15 Psalms of ascent is because there were 15 steps between courtyards.
- As such, this would mean Jesus Himself would have likely sung these "Songs of Ascents" on His many journeys to Jerusalem.

**Psalm 121** -- A Song of Ascents. 1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

- Psalm 121 is a Psalm of great encouragement and hope for those who are discouraged and in much need of the Lord's help.
- The Psalmist is reassured his help comes from the Lord and the Lord alone, Who keeps him safe and protected at all times.
- The take away to me from this Psalm is that of looking to the Lord and not to anyone or anything else during times of need.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Psalm 122** -- A Song of Ascents. Of David. 1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." 2 Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! 3 Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, 4 Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. 5 For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

- Psalm 122 is a magnificent Psalm in which the Psalmist expresses the pure joy he experiences when he goes to the Temple.
- This because, the assembling together of God's people in a place of worship is the place that provides a sanctuary of peace.
- It's for this reason the Psalmist asks for prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, such that, the house of the Lord would be peaceful.

**Psalm 123** -- A Song of Ascents. 1 Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens. 2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us. 3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt. 4 Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.

- Psalm 123 is another of those Psalms that is short in length but very powerful in its strength dealing with God's mercy on us.
- It's interesting to note the comparison the Psalmist makes to the eyes of the servant looking to the hand signal of their master.
- The picture the Psalmist is painting here is that of waiting in expectation for the Lord to have mercy on His afflicted servant.

**Psalm 124** -- A Song of Ascents. Of David. 1 "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say— 2 "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, 3 Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; 4 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; 5 Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul." 6 Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

- Psalm 124 is a very interesting for a number of reasons, chief of which is it speaks to how our lives would be without the Lord.
- I would suggest every single one of us could create a very long list that began with the words, "if it hadn't been for the Lord."
- It's interesting to note how David ends the Psalm with praise to the Lord for delivering him from the enemy who preyed on him.

G. Campbell Morgan - "If Jehovah had not helped, how great would have been the calamity! But He has helped, and the sigh which trembles with the consciousness of past peril, merges into the glad song: Blessed be Jehovah."

**Psalm 125** -- A Song of Ascents. 1 Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever. 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever. 3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous, Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity. 4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, And to those who are upright in their hearts. 5 As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The LORD shall lead them away With the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!

- Psalm 125 is a description of how God protects us and surrounds us the way the mountains protect and surround Jerusalem.
- So much so, that it cannot be moved or shaken but abides forever, which is exactly what the Lord does for us as his people.
- It's important to point out that this only applies to those who trust in the Lord as the Psalmist begins by saying in verse one.