



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

March 23rd, 2022

“The Second Song of Ascent”

Psalm 121

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight...

—C.H.S.

PSALM 121

TITLE, ETC. —This bears no other title than "*A Song of degrees.*" It is several steps in advance of its predecessor, for it tells of the peace of God's house, and the guardian care of the Lord, while Psalm cxx. bemoans the departure of peace from the good man's abode, and his exposure to the venomous assaults of slanderous tongues. In the first instance his eyes looked around with anguish, but here they look up with hope. From the constant recurrence of the word *keep*, we are led to name this song "*a Psalm to the keeper of Israel.*" Were it not placed among the Pilgrim Psalms we should regard it is a martial hymn, fitted for the evensong of one who slept upon the tented field. It is a soldier's song as well as a traveller's hymn. There is an ascent in the Psalm itself which rises to the greatest elevation of restful confidence.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VI, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 121

REFLECTION. While the eyes of our flesh may be lifted in some hope toward a number of hills or mountains, and though we might question from where our help may come (v1; Jer 3:23), our help can only be found on one hill, Mount Calvary, and in the Lord Jesus Christ, who made heaven and earth (v2; Heb 1:1-3). While our journey in the Christian life is filled with peril and difficulties, our Lord Jesus, who never sleeps nor slumbers in His living intercessions, will strengthen our faith (vv3-4; Heb 7:25). In the decline of this ungodly world because of sin, neither the blistering heat of sin's calamity, nor the chilling, doctrinal perversions from the moonlit souls of false teachers will strike us with

fear or dread, because the Lord Jesus is our Guard, our Keeper, our Protection, who shades our faith from both (vv5-6; Rev 7:16). The Lord Jesus Christ is the great Keeper by the power of His death and resurrection; and He provides three-fold security: [1] Jesus guards us from all evil; [2] He preserves our souls, and thus, life in Christ is life eternal; and [3] He keeps our going out and coming in until His return— that is, He protects us in our labors, as well as in our rest from our labors (vv7-8).

APPLICATION. We certainly need the Lord Jesus to help us, protect us, and preserve us (vv2-8) because the lustful eyes, in the corruptions of our mortal flesh, will tempt us to find help from a hill or mountain other than Mount Calvary (v1).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 121

With divine protection promised in the Lord Jesus Christ from God's Word, it makes one wonder why and how people could ever reject a Good Shepherd like Jesus or a loving, heavenly Father like God.

READ MATTHEW 23:37-39 & LUKE 19:41-44. In the latter passage, Luke states outright that the Lord Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of their ignorance of His coming and as the result for their rejection of Him. In Matthew's passage, though it doesn't say Jesus is weeping, by what He says in v37 you should be able to tell that the Lord is truly heartbroken over their disbelief and hardness of heart. What does this tell you about the heart of God and the salvation promised in Christ Jesus? How does this help you to understand the sovereignty of God in His dealings with fallen mankind?

REFLECT upon Christ's protection conveyed in this psalm for those He has saved by His amazing grace. Each evening before you go to bed, reflect upon how God in Christ has kept you in one of the ways listed in verses 2-8. Prepare to give your testimony next week.

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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