

Highlights from the Psalms

Psalm 121 - October 24, 2021 Sermon Outline

Introduction: The hundred twenty-first Psalm is the second of fifteen Psalms of ascents. Four of them are specifically attributed to David, although he may have written all of them. They were sung by the Israelites on their pilgrimage to the tabernacle/temple to worship at their three major festivals.

Israel's festivals of worship began on the 15th of their lunar month so that they always had the light of a full moon. It makes verse 6b especially meaningful. The hills may express a rejection of the Asherah poles, or, quite the opposite, the hill of Jerusalem wherein the temple was built. Solomon's temple had 15 steps leading to the entrance and it is believed the Levites, in a culminating act of worship, sang one of the 15 Psalms in procession as they ascended the steps into the temple.

Psalm 121 is a Psalm for those who are suffering, who are in trouble, or under attack.

I. Where Does My Help Come From? (verses 1-4)

A. The Psalmist realizes his help comes from no one else except Jehovah. He is the Almighty covenant-keeping God who is the creator of all – the One who made heaven and earth (the universe – all things).

B. It is He who will give you stability; He is a rock and our strong tower. He can be relied upon at all times because He never sleeps or even grows tired.

C. He is the covenant – keeping God who guards and protects Israel. (And, in our time, the Church universal.)

II. The Keeper of Israel and of us individually (verses 5-8)

A. Not only is He the keeper of Israel the nation but our personal, individual Keeper and Protector.

B. He is our covering and shade – we will never be smitten by the sun's heat nor the brightness of the moon.

C. Jehovah will protect from the onslaught of the enemy and guard our soul. He will protect us when we go out to begin our day and when we come home at night (Spurgeon, Psalm 121:8) and will do so in the moment and forever more.

Conclusion: The Psalmist reminds us that we abide in His care and that He alone is our help. When you're in trouble is it your habit to look to the Lord (Psalm 105:4)?