

Highlights from the Psalms

Songs of Ascents (120-134)

Sunday, October 31, 2021

INTRO: As we have mentioned, there are 15 Psalms of Ascents, beginning with Psalm 120 and going through Psalm 134. The very introduction in the Hebrew means “to go up” or “songs to sing while going up.” Most probably the reference is to the annual journeys to Jerusalem for the three main feasts of the year, and were to be sung by the pilgrims on their journey while going up to Jerusalem which, from wherever one started, meant moving from the lowlands to the hill country of the capitol city.

One commentator has noted that the fifteen psalms can easily be broken into 3 sets of 5 each: (1) Psalms 120-124—Conflicts for God, (2) Psalms 125-129—Confidence in God, and (3) Psalms 130-134—Communication with God. This is a helpful way to organize these psalms and today we will consider Psalms 120-129, having already dealt with Psalm 121 in some detail, we will look only at a key verse or two from the remainder in sections 1 and 2.

I. Section One: Conflicts for God

- A. In my trouble I cried to Jehovah, and He answered me. (120:1)
- B. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you. (122:6)
- C. The Lord is enthroned in the heavens (He rules over all). (123:1)
- D. Had it not been for Jehovah, our enemies would have defeated us (124:1-5) Our help is in the name of Jehovah Who made heaven and earth.

II. Section Two: Confidence in God

- A. Those who trust in Jehovah are as Mt. Zion which cannot be moved. (125:1)
- B. Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him (126:5-6)
- C. Unless Jehovah builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless Jehovah Guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain. (127:1) It is vain for you to rise up Early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He gives to His beloved even While he is sleeping. (127:2)
- D. How blessed is everyone who fears Jehovah (respects with humble worship), who walks in His ways. (128:1)
- E. Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up, yet they have not prevailed against me. (129:1-2)

CONC: There is no conflict over which God cannot triumph; there is no power that is stronger than He. We may trust Him fully in all situations and circumstances. This is why Paul writes to the Philippians, “Do not be anxious regardless of the circumstances, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Do you have faith in God? Really? To have faith is to believe what God says is true.