

**Psalm 121** is a celebration for those in insecure circumstances. It is a Song of Ascents. The Songs of Ascents are found in Psalms 120-134. They would be sung by Jews as they traveled to Jerusalem for the times of feasts there. The songs bring comfort, joy, and confidence in God. Where do we find our security? Our jobs? Financial portfolio? Health? Homes? Family? Col. 3:2 tells us to set our minds on things above where Christ is. We find our security in God alone.

#### **4 Assurances of God's Character Towards Believers in a Hostile World**

- 1) **Yahweh Helps:** V1-2, why is the psalmist looking at the mountains? The terrain could be difficult, there are wild beasts, and robbers. It could be a long trip ahead. They are likely traveling in a caravan and have to bring their supplies with them along with their sacrifice for Temple worship. The reply in verse 2: My help comes from the Lord who made all that has been created and all it contains.
  - a. Luke 12:4-5, God has the power to cast your soul in hell, we should fear Him.
  - b. Ps. 20:7, we boast in the name of the Lord who is our help in time of need.
  - c. Phil. 4:8-9, we must meditate on good things.
  - d. Ps. 115:9-11, the Lord is Israel's help, Aaron's help, and those who fear Him.
  - e. The One who created all things, sustains all things.
- 2) **Yahweh Supports:** V3-4, a more literal writing of V3: "May He not allow your foot to stumble, May He not slumber." This verse is a prayer to Yahweh who keeps our feet from stumbling.
  - a. Deut. 32:35, the slipping foot is a sign of God's judgement.
  - b. God preserves our life and upholds and supports us.
  - c. Ps. 46, the mountains can be moved, but God is still with His people.
  - d. 1 Kings 18:25-27, false gods can't hear, there is only one God, Yahweh.
  - e. V4, Yahweh doesn't slumber or sleep, He keeps Israel.
- 3) **Yahweh Shields:** V5-6, Yahweh my keeper. God keeps us. 6 times in Psalm 121:V3, He keeps me, V4, He keeps Israel, V5, He is your keeper, V7, He keeps you from all evil, V7, He keeps your soul, & V8, He keeps you as you go in and out. Yahweh keeps you from now and forever more.
  - a. V5, He is your shield. See also Ps. 115:9-11.
  - b. Ps. 91:4, His truth is your shield. 91:4, under His wings you shall take refuge.
  - c. Is. 25:4, Yahweh is our shade from heat.
  - d. V5, Yahweh is at your right hand to help, Ps. 16:8, Ps. 73:23, Is. 41:13.
  - e. V6, the sun nor the moon will change Yahweh's shielding of His people.
  - f. Rom. 8:31, who can be against us, if God is for us?
  - g. Rom. 8:38-39, nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- 4) **Yahweh Keeps:** V7-8, Yahweh keeps us from all evil. In our going out and coming in, Yahweh keeps us.
  - a. V7, Yahweh keeps my salvation, He keeps my soul.
  - b. Ps. 23:4, in the valley of the shadow of death, Yahweh is with you.
  - c. V8, all my days are kept by Yahweh.
  - d. From now and all eternity, Yahweh will keep you, so we should *not* fear.
  - e. He guards us, He keeps us, He has purchased us, We are His.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

How would you encourage a new believer to grow in their faith and learn the attributes of God? What attributes are found in Psalm 121 & Psalm 23 that you could share with them? How does Romans 8:28-39 confirm what Psalm 121 declares? How does the power of Spirit work in us to keep and preserve us (Rom. 8:26-27)?

What attributes of God are found in Psalm 91?

What attributes of God do we put our trust and security in? The character of God never changes. Look at Psalm 78. What has God shown His people throughout time? How has His faithfulness been shown time and time again?

There is a number of blessings in Colossians 1:19-23. List a few of them. From V23, who will keep you? Who preserves you blameless and above reproach? Why does Paul use the word "if" - is Paul saying that you can lose your salvation? **No**, he is not. Paul is challenging us to believe the Gospel. Read Col. 1:24-29, what is the warning for those who reject the offer of salvation? What is the aim for Paul in V28? Why does he preach and suffer so greatly for the cause of Christ?

How do we grow in our faith in the Lord? What have we added and grown in since becoming a believer? 2 Peter 1:5-11 is always a great outline of the Christian life. What promises has God given us in Christ from 2 Peter 1:2-4? How might we encourage a young believer to continue and persevere in being discipled and growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord?