

Evening Sermon Outline – November 7, 2021

“If God were Not for Us...” Psalm 124

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

I. *The Israelites were not the strongest people, neither are we –*

<sup>1</sup> “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,” Let Israel now say— <sup>2</sup> “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, <sup>3</sup> Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Psalm 124:1-3 (NKJV)

1. *In and of themselves the Israelites were NOT a powerful nation*

<sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; Deuteronomy 7:7 (NKJV)

2. *Neither are we as “Christians” chosen by God because we are the best and brightest (or most powerful or numerous)*

<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*” 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV)

3. *Because of this we were / are vulnerable to enemies, at least seemingly so ... we would be without God's help -*

<sup>2</sup> Then they would have swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled against us; Psalm 124:3 (NKJV)

A. *This is especially true of our spiritual enemies –*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and

blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:10–12 (NKJV)

B. *Yet, even are fleshly enemies out number us –*

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

C. *Their hatred for us is the same as their hatred for Jesus Christ, Whom they nailed to a cross –*

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> He who hates Me hates My Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. <sup>25</sup> But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘*They hated Me without a cause.*’ John 15:18–25 (NKJV)

D. *Add to this we do not have the same weapons the other side has –*

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:4–6 (NKJV)

E. *Though David was allowed the same weapons as Goliath, he did not use them –*

<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> Then all

this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." **1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)**

*F. We are not to put our trust in the weapons of this world –*

**7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)**

*As a church this means not only that we do not put our trust in guns, tanks and bombs, but also instead of trusting money and advertising, we put our primary trust in prayer and God's Word.*

*II. We must (and can) stand against the world's flood*

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**4Then 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." Psalm 124:4-5**

- 1. We do not read of great floods of literal waters coming against Israel as a nation, but these verses are talking figuratively of an overwhelming flood of enemies!*
- 2. Israel often was out numbered!*
- 3. Revelation 12 speaks of a Satanic flood –*

**15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. Revelation 12:15 (NKJV)**

*A. As Satan is the great liar and deceiver, I believe this flood (today) is a flood of LIES –*

**44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV)**

**9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)**

*B. This is why the flood is said to come from his mouth – Revelation 12:15*

*III. We thankfully have help from the LORD -*

**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 124:6-8 (NKJV)**

*1. The words prey to their teeth indicate the beastly nature of our enemies –*

**8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**

*2. Christ's thoughts from the cross, relate such an idea as well -*

**13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. Psalm 22:13 (NKJV)**

*3. Yet, God protects us not only from Satan's and our enemy's power but from temptations -*

**7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. Psalm 124:7 (NKJV)**

*Verse 7.—“As a bird out of the snare of the fowlers.” The soul is surrounded by many dangers. 1. It is ensnared by worldliness. One of the most gigantic dangers against which God's people have specially to guard—an enemy to all spirituality of thought and feeling. 2. It is ensnared by selfishness—a foe to all simple-hearted charity, to all expansive generosity and Christian philanthropy. 3. It is ensnared by unbelief—the enemy of prayer, of ingenuous confidence, of all personal Christian effort. These are not imaginary dangers. We meet them in everyday life. They threaten us at every point, and often have we to lament over the havoc they make in our hearts. — George Barlow*

*4. He Who made heaven and earth is surely able to help us, David saved sheep from the lion and bear, our Lord saves us from sin – Matthew 1:21*

*He is able to help us ascend – Jude :24-25*

*Arnold Brevick*