



The following 15 Psalms (120-134) are called "Song of degrees" Psalms. These Psalms were used for the journey (ascent) to Jerusalem during three of their sacred feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of the Tabernacles. Pilgrims would sing as they journeyed to their destination: Exo. 23:14; Deut. 16:16; Lk. 2:41-42.

Psalm 120

1 A Song of degrees. In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

2 Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. 3 What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue? 4 Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

5 Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!

6 My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. 7 I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.

Outline:

- A. Answered Prayers (v.1)
- B. Prayer for Deliverance (vv.2-4)
- B.' Expression of Woe (v.5)
- A.' Longing for Peace (vv.6-7)

Observations:

1. A Personal lament.
2. David prays against liars.
3. David lives in the midst of liars and warmongers.
4. Mesech (north-west) & Kedar (south-east) though unknown today.

Lesson: Watch your tongue – what you say or speak of is important.

Psalm 121

1 A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Outline:

- A. The LORD is Creator (vv.1-2)
- B. The LORD is Israel's Guardian (vv.3-4)
- C. The LORD is Thy Keeper (vv.5-6)
- D. The LORD is Thy Preserver (vv.7-8)

Observations:

1. The safety of God's people is contingent upon the LORD.
2. God keeps us in our journey (pilgrimage).

Lesson: 1 Pet. 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Psalm 122

1 A Song of degrees of David. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. 2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: 4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. 5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

Outline:

- A. David's Gladness (vv.1-2)
- B. David's Praise (vv.3-5)
- C. David's Prayer (vv.6-9)

Observations:

1. There is joy when we go to the house of the LORD.
2. David prays for the peace and prosperity of Jerusalem.

Lesson: Do you love the LORD's house? (In our dispensation it would be the local, assembly of baptized believers – the church).