



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

May 25th, 2022

“The Fifth Song of Ascent”

Psalm 124

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 124

TITLE. —*A Song of degrees of David.* Of course the superfine critics have pounced upon this title as inaccurate, but we are at liberty to believe as much or as little of their assertions as we may please. They declare that there are certain ornaments of language in this little ode which were unknown in the Davidic period. It may be so; but in their superlative wisdom they have ventured upon so many other questionable statements that we are not bound to receive this dictum. Assuredly the manner of the song is very like to David's, and we are unable to see why he should be excluded from the authorship. Whether it be his composition or no, it breathes the same spirit as that which animates the unchallenged songs of the royal composer.

DIVISION. —This short Psalm contains an acknowledgment of favour received by way of special deliverance (1-5), then a grateful act of worship in blessing Jehovah (6-7), and, lastly, a declaration of confidence in the Lord for all future time of trial. May our experience lead us to the same conclusion as the saints of David's time. From all confidence in man may we be rescued by a holy reliance upon our God.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VI, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 124

REFLECTION. Had God not been on Israel's side, He never would have promised to send them a Messiah (**v1a**); therefore, Israel must acknowledge vocally (**vv1-2a**) that their God fought for them when Israel's enemies rose up against them (**v2b**); that were it not for the LORD, they would have been utterly consumed by the anger of God's enemies (**v3**), and also, were it not

for the LORD, they would have been swept away in the raging waters of their wickedness (vv4-5). Because of their blessed LORD, Israel was not consumed by God's enemies (v6), nor altogether ensnared by their idolatries (v7). Therefore, Israel must conclude that their help can only be in the name Yehovah God, who made heaven and earth (v8).

APPLICATION. While the first verse seems redundant, it is given to praise God's grace in our Lord Jesus Christ. Had Christ Jesus not saved us by God's grace, we could not even muster the strength to say, "*If it had not been the LORD who was on our side...*" (v1). Had Jesus not saved us by His amazing grace, Christ's gospel would not have prevailed in us against the pressure from unsaved people rising up against the gospel which converted us (vv2-3). The flood of sinful flesh would have swept us away from Christ (vv4-5) had Jesus not been on our side to save us. Blessed be the Lord Jesus, indeed, who is our protection, and will not allow us to be devoured by the devil (v6; 1 Pet 5:8). Christ's cross has broken the snare of sin; and strengthened in Christ by every remembrance, reflection, and meditation upon Christ's cross, we may, by God's grace, overcome idolatrous temptations as they arise (v7). Our help is in Christ Jesus alone, who has made heaven and earth (v8; Heb 1:2). Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 124

REFLECT upon the truth of Christ being on our side. Consider where you might be if Christ was not on your side.

READ ROMANS 8:31. How does this New Testament verse help you to understand this psalm? How does this New Testament verse help you apply verses 1 and 2 to your day to day life?

RESPOND to this psalm with this devotional challenge this week: when you arise in the morning, consider the truth of Christ, and Him crucified. Think of the blessings salvation in Jesus Christ have brought your life. Then say, "If it had not been the Lord Jesus who was on my side..." then name a blessing you've experienced. What did you experience in putting this exercise into practice? Prepare to testify next week.

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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