

One of D. L. Moody's favorite verses of Scripture was Isaiah 12:2 that said, "I will trust, and not be afraid." Moody used to say you can travel first class or second class to heaven. Second class travel says—when I am afraid, then I will trust. First class travel says—I will trust and not be afraid. Moody used to say it is far better to trust first class, than second class.

The truth is there are times when we are afraid. In fact, in this very book of Psalms we read, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee...In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid" (Ps. 56:3-4). There are times when we face intimidating and threatening situations. In those moments we need to rekindle our trust in God. We need to place our confidence totally and completely and only in God. If we do that, we will discover our trust in the Lord will not fail and we will discover that we will have some very unusual and special blessings that God only gives to people who completely trust Him.

Psalm 125 is a Psalm of Ascents. It is a Psalm that is aimed at Israel. One of the things that she will eventually proclaim as she ascends to the Temple to worship will be all of the blessings she received because she finally trusted God and His Word. There will come a day when she will have learned this lesson:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE TRUST IN GOD TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY FOR THEIR SECURITY, THEY WILL DISCOVER THAT GOD WILL BLESS THEM IN MANY WONDERFUL AND POSITIVE WAYS.

The word "trust" in Hebrew is *batach*. This word carries with it the idea of setting your hope and confidence upon someone to the point that you are assured and secure in what you place your trust (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 112).

Now the particular point of this word is not just any type of trust or hope; it is a hope and confidence that rests secure in the object of the trust.

Years ago I took someone into the back country on my horses. We came to a very steep section of the mountain. The person who was with me said, "I hope these horses can make this; it is very steep." Now I had ridden this before so I said, "these horses can make this, just trust them." Now my friends' level of trust was at one level and mine was at another level. I knew they could do this because I had been up this mountain before. He, on the other hand, hoped they could make it, but didn't know for sure.

The trust that is described in this Psalm is a trust of certainty. The writer knew one could trust God. He had trusted God and had seen God do amazing things. Secure trust in the Lord is what leads to great blessings.

Now there are two central themes that are developed in this Psalm:

THEME #1 – God will bless those who trust Him.

Now the point of this is to motivate God's people to have total and complete trust in God. Most will tell you that the key to positive blessings is that you trust in yourself and your works. The key to God's blessings is to trust in the Lord.

There are five blessings that Israel could experience and so can we by trusting in the Lord:

Blessing #1 - God will make His trusting people like Mount Zion. **125:1**

Mount Zion was the mount upon which the Temple sat. It is not the highest mountain range that surrounds Jerusalem. To the east of Mount Zion is the Mount of Olives. To the north of Mount Zion is Mount Scopus. To the west of Mount Zion and to the south of Mount Zion are mountains that are all higher than Mount Zion.

However, Micah 4:1 predicts that Mount Zion will one day be raised to be the highest mountain upon which the Temple will sit. So when the writer uses this illustration, he has some key comparison points in view:

What He is promising are at least three comparisons:

(Comparison #1) - His people will have an exalted loftability like Mount Zion.

One day Israel will be raised up and will be seen as the exalted and honored nation of God (Isaiah 2:2-3). Israel will be seen and known as the great nation of God. She will be high and lifted up. Those who trust in the Lord are destined for great honor.

(Comparison #1) - His people will have immovability like Mount Zion. **125:1a**

People who trust in God are stable people. They are not fickle. They cannot be swayed or shaken. They have an entrenched and settled stability to them, just like a mountain.

(Comparison #2) - His people will have survivability like Mount Zion. **125:1b**

People who trust in God will survive. They will live and abide forever.

There may be threats and intimidations. There may be some scars and wounds; but they will be like a tree planted by water. You will not be able to shake them.

Some people are like the sand; they are always shifting with no solid footing.

Some people are like the sea tossed to and fro this way and that way.

Some people are like the wind in that they are uncertain and inconsistent.

Those who trust God are like the mountains; very secure and very stable.

Blessing #2 - God will surround and protect His trusting people like the mountains that surround Jerusalem. **125:2**

As we have already mentioned, Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains. Those mountains have always given a sense of assurance and protection to Israel. For example, when David wanted to escape to a place to hide and be protected, he fled to those mountains.

God is making a wonderful promise to Israel and that is there will come a day when they will be totally and completely secure forever because He Personally will protect them. He will shelter them and surround them like the mountains of Israel.

The time when this will happen will be when Jesus Christ returns to Israel and establishes His Kingdom. Israel will be seen as the nation of God.

Blessing #3 - God will purify His trusting people from any wickedness to total righteousness. **125:3**

The metaphor of the “scepter” is that which pictures something that rules or reigns. The promise is that God will not allow wickedness to rule and reign over His people who completely trust in Him.

Wicked people can put pressure upon God’s people and make life miserable; but God will not ever permit them to rule or reign over His people.

There is profound theology in this verse. Any believer who plunges into wickedness is permitted by God to do so and what that means is that God has removed His protective grace because that one did not totally and completely trust Him. Any person who trusts in the security of himself is destined for a serious fall. But one who trusts totally and completely in Him is destined to rich and wonderful blessings.

In order for a guitar string to sound right, it cannot be too loose or too tight. It must be just right. It must have just the right tension. That is what God does with His people. He gives them just the right tension—not too tight and not too loose.

Blessing #4 - God will do good things for those who trust Him. **125:4**

God will Personally do good things for those who trust Him, those for whom He classifies as good.

Now since God says in both the O.T. (Ps. 14:1) and the N.T. (Rom. 3:12) that none are good, what does this mean? To be good in God’s estimation one must trust in God and be cleansed by His grace.

Carefully observe what is said in **verse 4**, God looks at one's heart. God looks into the heart and sees whether or not one has trusted Him and whether or not one is after that which is good and upright in the heart.

This is so important. God does not just look at the action, he looks at the heart. The merit or worth or goodness or righteousness is not determined by the action itself, but by the heart.

Those who trust God in their hearts and have a desire to please God with their lives will discover that God will do wonderful and good things for them.

Blessing #5 - God will grant peace to those who trust Him. **125:5b**

When Israel finally comes to the place where she trusts in Jesus Christ, she will have the peace she longs for. The same is true for individuals. There is no greater peace that one can have than a peace that knows one is right with God.

THEME #2 – God will destroy those who turn aside from trusting Him. **125:5a**

There were those in Israel who knew they should totally trust in God, but they turned aside from that and started trusting in themselves and in idols and in other nations.

God warns His people that if they do not trust Him, He will let them go in their own crooked ways and lead them to destruction.

People who do not trust in Jesus Christ will all end up in the same place. They will end up in hell with all doers of iniquity.

Those who trust in the LORD have salvation and those who do not have condemnation.