

Lesson 132  
Psalm 124

I. Introduction

- A. Psalm 124 is the fifth of the “song of ascents.” It is a Psalm that reflects the favor that God has had on the nation of Israel. Because of God’s faithfulness in the past, the Psalmist anticipates that God will continue to show favor to His people!
- B. The question I asked when studying this Psalm was, “why is it in the song of ascents?” At first glance, it does not seem to fit the previous Psalms as the nation was going to Jerusalem to worship. But upon prayer and reflection, it is about worship. One of the primary components of worship, once we lift our eyes to Him who dwells in the heavens, is remembrance and gratitude as we think on God and His magnificence towards us! In that regard, it is “an ascent” of the mind that propels us to worship!
- C. Spurgeon said, “everyone who is a man of God has omnipotence as his guardian, and God will sooner empty heaven of angels that leave a saint without defense.” Steve Lawson places this Psalm historically in the context of 2 Sam 5:17-25. This text records the initial work of God in David’s reign as king over all Israel. This recording of David’s conquest of the Philistines is “bracketed by” David’s concern for the Ark of the Covenant and God’s covenant with David. Afterwards, David’s further conquests in subduing the land are recorded.
- D. The primary theme for us today in this Psalm is reflection and remembrance of God’s grace and mercy towards us in our lives. It is my desire that this Psalm moves us to worship and prepares us for the Communion today that we will observe today! The table is for “remembrance” for Christ’s work for us on the cross and anticipation of His return.

II. God’s protection (v1-5)

- A. We notice the poetry of the Psalm. The Psalmist uses a hypothetical, provocative statement to make us think of life without God and makes us realize the difference God makes in our lives! It is like what Paul says to the Corinthian church when he says, “for who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (1 Cor 4:7-8) It is all of Grace, unmerited, undeserved, favor from God toward us His people. God, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:5,6)
- B. The call to remember. The call is made using the word “when.” When men rose up against us, and when their wrath was kindled against us. The Holy Spirit is directing David to cause the nation of Israel to recall a thousand years of history of God’s faithfulness to them from Abraham to the present day. He is also encouraging them to anticipate, because of God’s covenant with the people, future protection is sure. (Gen 12:1-3, 15:1-6, 17:1-8, 21:1-2, 25:23, 37:8, 42:6, 49:10-12, 50:20; Ex 3:5-8, 11:7, 14:30-31; Lev 16: Num 14, 22-24; Dt 1:29-33)
- C. Principles for Israel and for the church.
  - 1. God is on our side. (Dt 7:6-11, 9:3-7; Joshua 1:5-9; Rom 8:31) To the church, because God is for us then: (1) who can be against us (2) He will freely give us all things (3) we cannot have a charge against us (4) we are justified, not condemned (5) we are prayed for (6) we cannot be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus! Steve Lawson is helpful when he says, “if God undertakes our cause, it matters not who is with us or who is not. One plus God always makes a majority. If all the world opposed the weakest saint, but the Lord is for him, he will stand victorious.”
  - 2. We will be hated like the Jews were hated!
  - 3. The confidence we have in Him! We will not be swallowed up alive, the waters will not overwhelm us, the swollen waters will not go over our souls! He is a faithful, promise keeping God, who is our shield, buckler, defense, and shield! (Ps 56:1-13; 46:1-7; 40:1-5; 37:1-7, 23-29; 34:4-19)

III. Psalmist obligation to praise (v6-8)

- A. We notice the mood shift and new tone! The Psalmist, after he remembers God’s provision for his life, breaks out into praise. All of us must arrive here! Have you come to this realization in your own soul? The acknowledgment of a covenant keeping God is an obligation and a sacred duty! Scripture tells us we should “bless the LORD at all times, His praise should continually be in our mouths!” It tells us in everything, by praise and thanksgiving, we should make our requests be known unto God; in everything we should be thankful and everything that has breath praise the LORD.
- B. We have been freed from the trap! This speaks figuratively of the snare that sin was and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ to free us from sin’s dread sway and the consequence that it brings, death!
- C. Our help is from the creator of heaven and earth. The character of God, as revealed by His name, is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy, not keeping His anger forever, pitying those who fear Him, removing our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. (Ps 103)

IV. Introspection, remembering, reflection for us today!

\*\*\*If the LORD had not been on your side when \_\_\_\_\_ happened? \*\*\*\* Renew your trust, dependence, thankfulness in Him for all His benefits towards YOU!