

Series: Psalms

Title: I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

Text: Ps 121: 1-8

Date: March 31, 2024

Place: SGBC, NJ

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.

Three times in the year, God commanded his saints to leave their homes and go up to Jerusalem to the feasts. God told them he would protect their farms. God commanded they travel through the wilderness up to Jerusalem. Today, each child who God has sanctified--is travelling through the wilderness on our way up to God's holy city, heavenly Mt Zion, heavenly Jerusalem.

God commanded the saints travel up the temple, to God's house. Today, God's saints are pilgrims travelling through this wilderness on our way up to Christ our Temple

God commanded they come to the feasts which God ordained. We are sojourning through this wilderness on our way to the feast Christ has prepared. All those feasts typified Christ. We are on our way to the great marriage supper of the Lamb.

But the saints did not wait to worship God when they got to Jerusalem--they worshipped him as they journeyed through the wilderness. These songs of degrees were the songs of the saints as they sojourned through the wilderness on their way to those feasts. Brethren, we worship and depend upon Christ and sing praise to him, as we sojourn through this wilderness.

Psalm 121: 1: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Like saints of old
We travel 'cross the desert sands
On our way to the holy temple
But our temple is not made with hands
We lift our eyes
To heavens Zion, and see our mercy seat
The LORD God Almighty and the Lamb
Our Shield, Defender and Strength

There would be thieves and robbers who would hide out along those old paths to rob God's saints--there are many thieves and robbers along our path too.

Mark 4:19: The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

We get so encumbered with the journey. We have to pass through the long, dark valley. But the Spirit of our Lord keeps turning our heart to Christ above. *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."* Mrs. Lemmel knew where her help was. She wrote this song:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of this world will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Psalm 22: 2: My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

The help of the helpless is Christ Jesus our LORD--"*My help cometh from the LORD.*" The Spirit of God strengthens our heart by turning our heart above and renewing us to remember--"*My help cometh from the LORD which made heaven and earth.*" The very one who laid down his life for his elect and purchased us with his blood.

Colossians 1: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: 15: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

Christ is the Head of the body, his church. He will not permit a member of his body to be cut off. He laid down his life for his people on the cross. He "*upholds all things by the word of his power.*"

Isaiah 40: 12: Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 40: 11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

THE LORD TURNS OUR HEART TO HIM

Psalm 121: 3: He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:...

On one occasion, David said,

Psalm 73: 2: But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

Why? Where were his eyes focused?

Psalm 73: 3: For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

David was slumbering. How? He began looking at the wicked prospering in the earth. David said, "*My feet were almost gone! My steps well-nigh slipped!*" But did the Lord suffer David's foot to be moved away from Christ? No. How did he keep David? our Savior spoke through the gospel and turned David's heart to Christ above.

Psalm 73: 17: Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.

David went to the Lord's house and heard the gospel. Christ turned David's heart to the true sanctuary, the holiest of holies above, where Christ sits at God's right hand. Doing so, the Lord gave David spiritual discernment to behold Christ his Redeemer. David said,

Psalm 73: 22 So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee. 23 Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand. 24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

In other psalms we read,

Psalm 56:13: For thou hast delivered my soul from death: *wilt not thou deliver my feet* from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Psalm 62: 2: He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *he is* my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Paul said these light afflictions "work for us." They are Christ "working all things together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to his purpose." They work for us "a far more exceeding

and eternal weight of glory." How? The Spirit of God turn us from things that are seen to things that are not seen. The Lord turns us to Christ above. He lifts our eye of faith to God's heavenly hill from whence cometh our Help. They work for us because that is how Christ keeps us glorifying and praising only him.

Jude 24: Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

OUR KEEPER NEVER SLEEPS

Psalm 121: 3...he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4: Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

When the saints travelled in the desert, they took turns setting watch. They always had a watchmen to watch over their tents at night to protect them from robbers. Christ is the Watchman that never slumbers or sleeps, "*he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*"

"Behold", how Christ entered covenant to be Surety for his elect Israel from before the world began to bring each of us to the Father safe and sound. "Behold" how Christ who laid down his life on the cross according to the scriptures. He made all his elect righteous by his obedience. Christ put away your sin by his blood. He redeemed you and made all his elect his purchased possession. "Behold" Christ who sent the gospel to you in the beginning, who continues to make the word effectual in your heart, who is speaking to you right now! "*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*"

Even a mother, though she would stand between her children and a bear, sometimes needs to sleep. But Christ's eye is always open, always upon each of his redeemed--always looking down from his throne of power and grace and wisdom and he never slumbers or sleeps.

Psalm 32:8: I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

OUR SAVIOR COVERS US

Psalm 121: 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.

Our keeper is the LORD. We try to keep ourselves, as the apostle John said. But we see our sin, our faltering, our falling and we know, "*The LORD is thy keeper.*"

Psalm 40: 17: I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

Our Savior is so omniscient, all-knowing, that no child of God is ever on the outer circle of God's thoughts. Every child is always at the center, the focus of his thoughts. There is never a moment, night or day, in which the great mind of God our Father ceases to be upon the child he has everlastingly loved in Christ Jesus.

The LORD is our covering. "*The LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*" Peter said, "Charity covereth the multitude of sins." Solomon said, "Love covererth ALL sins." Love took flesh and by his own life's blood. He covered all the sins of his people.

Romans 4:7: *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Isaiah 43:25: I, *even* I, *am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Believer, the sun of God's wrath and justice fell on our Substitute to full satisfaction. So now Christ is the shade upon thy right hand so that the sun of God's justice shall not smite thee by day. How would the moon smite us by night? By going behind the clouds so that we have no light. But Christ is our Light and in the dark night of this world. His light shall not be taken from you.

Isaiah 4:5: And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all, the glory shall be a defence. 6: And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Our Psalm says, "*the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*"

THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE THEE

Psalm 121: 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.

There would be no perseverance of the saints if it not for the preserving of our LORD. Bruce Crabtree coined a good word one time. He combined the two words and called it "Preseverance." The Lord shall preserve thee from ALL evil. Scripture speaks of a lot of kinds of evil. Here are a few:

- *The Evil of the heart*—Gen 6: 5: And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.
- *Evil of our doings*
- *The evil report*—slander (*Num 13: 32*)
- *Evil beasts*
- *The Evil congregation*--false religion (*Num 14: 35*)
- *Evil generation*--the multitude of reprobate sinners (*Deut 1: 35.*)
- *Evil diseases* (*Deut 7: 15*)
- *Evil spirits*
- *Evil dealings*
- *The evil time* (*Ps 37: 18*)

Psalm 121: 7: The LORD shall preserve thee from ALL evil:

Job 5: 19: He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. 20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. 21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. 22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. 23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. 24: And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle *shall be* in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. 25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed *shall be* great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth. 26 Thou shalt come to *thy* grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season. 27: Lo this, we have searched it, so it *is*; hear it, and know thou *it* for thy good.

Someone might think of the fact that God's saints have been martyred in the past. But "*he shall preserve thy SOUL.*" No man can harm the soul of one Christ has redeemed.

Psalm 34:22: The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

The redemption of our soul required a greater price than gold and silver and corruptible things. The blood of Christ alone pleased God as a ransom for our soul. Therefore, "*He shall preserve thy soul.*"

In all ways, at all times, the Lord shall preserve his saints. "*The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*" What is "*thy going out and thy coming in?*" It is all thy ways at all times.

Proverbs 3:6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 31:15 My times *are* in thy hand: deliver me...

How long will the Lord preserve us? "*From this time forth, and even for evermore.*" Christ said,

Matthew 6: 31: Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

1 Peters 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Proverbs 37: 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. 6: And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Amen!