

I. INTRODUCTION

A. THE PURPOSE & USE OF THE PSALMS (Eph.5:19; Col.3:16; Greek OT; see Acts 2)

B. THE PSALMS OF ASCENTS (120-134; geographical, architectural, literary, vocal; spiritual; 2Chr8:13; Ps24:3; Hb12:22f)

C. KEEPER: GUARD, PROTECT (121:3,4,5,(5),7,7,8; see Ps.23; Lk.13:34; Jn.10:28f)

II. THE LORD IS MY KEEPER! (Psalm 121)

A. PERSONAL TESTIMONY (1,2)

1. lift up eyes: look w/expectation (1a,b; 123:1,2; 133:3; Dan.6:10; Ex.14:13; see Gen.13:14; Is.40:26; Jn.4:35)

2. mountains: place of refuge, strength (1a; 125:1,2; see 11:1; 48:2; 87:1,2; Is.57:13)

3. beyond mountains: the Covenant Creator (2a,b; see 4&5,5,7,8; 123:1; 124:8; 134:2,3; see 115:15; 146:6)

4. summary: Heavenly King (1,2; 123:1; see 2Kngs.6:17; Eph.1:17-23; see Acts 7:55; Heb.12:22f; Rev.1:9f,etc.)

B. AUTHORITATIVE ENCOURAGEMENT (3-8; Num.6:24f; Ps.133:3)

1. slumber & sleep (3,4)

a. abhorrent: He is drowsy and lets you slip (3a,b; 127:1b; 37:24; 91:12 /Ezk.3:17f; Jn.10:28f; Eph.6:15)

b. impossible: He slumber; sleep (4; see Is.42:6; 56:10; Lk.2:8; Heb.13:17; *contrast* 1Kngs.18:27; Mt.28:13)

2. keeper & shade (5a,b)

a. the LORD is your keeper (5a; 3,4,5,7,7,8; 18:2; 23:1f; 27:1; 28:7; 118:14 /Josh.24:17; Hos.12:13; Phil.1:6)

b. the LORD is your shade (5b; see 91:1,4; Lk.13:34 /Song 2:3; Is.25:4; 32:2; Lam.4:20; Dan.4:12; Mk.4:32)

c. on your right hand (5b; see 16:8; 73:23; Is.48:13)

3. sun & moon (6a,b(2b); shade,5; Mt.13:6; Jon.4:8; see Ex.13:21; Ps.91:5; Mt.17:15)

4. all & soul (7a,b)

a. all evil (7a(6); see 23:4; 91:10; Mt.6:13; Lk.12:4; see Jms.1:17&Rev.20:10)

b. whole soul (7b; see Gen.2:7)

5. out & in (8a; 126:6; 91:11; see Num.27:17f; Dt.28:6/19; 31:2; Ps.104:23)

6. now & forever (8b; see 1; Ps.136:1ff; Lam.3:22f; Mt.28:20; Heb.13:5)

III. LOOK UP!

A. LOOK TO GOD WITH CONFIDENT EXPECTATION (1,2; 123:1,2; see 25:1,2; 37:7; Mt.11:28)

B. HEAR HIS AUTHORITATIVE BLESSING (3-8; see Num.6:24f; Mt.28:20; Lk.24:50)

C. KNOW THAT HE IS ABLE & WILLING TO HELP YOU (Creator, Lord, 2; Eph.1:17-23; Rev.4,5)

D. KNOW THAT AS HE SAVED YOU, HE WILL KEEP & PROTECT YOU (3-8; 37:24; Josh.24:17; Jn.10:28f; Phil.1:6; Heb.13:5)

E. LOOK TO GOD FOR EVERYTHING, ALWAYS (1f; 23:4f; see Ex.20:3; Is.45:5f; Jn.6:68)