

## PSALM 121 – GOD ABOVE ALL GODS

### I. Introduction

**A. Book Five of the Psalms – Psalm 107-150.** This section is the longest in the Psalms. Its main theme is praise to God. The last verse of Book 4 in Psalm 106:48 says, *Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!* The hymn that closes Book 5 and the whole Book of the Psalms (Psalm 150) ends with *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"*

In Book 5 there are several psalms affirming the validity of the promises to David (Psalm 110; 132; 144); two collections written by David (108-110; 138-145); the longest psalm, celebrating the value of the law (Psalm 119); and 15 psalms of ascent for use by pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem (Psalms 120-134).

**B. The Songs of Ascent – Psalm 120-134.** The songs in this great section of the Israeli hymnal were sung three times a year as the worshippers made their way up to Jerusalem. They are a wonderful kaleidoscope of the different realities of life.

**C. Psalm 121 – A Song of Ascents.** The most agreement among scholars is that this psalm was designed to be sung in view of the mountains of Jerusalem, as the travelers approached the city. As they see the hills of Judah in the distance, they break into song: *I lift up my eyes to the hills.*

*From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (vv. 1-2)*

**D. Theme** -- Protection by God, under the watchful eye of God, is the dominant theme. Fear is the reality of life that is dealt with in the psalm. There are two parts to the psalm: The Worshipper's Question (121:1), and the Worshipper's Confidence (121:2-8)

### II. The Worshipper's Question (121:1).

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*

Spurgeon wrote in The Treasury of David, "The purposes of God; the divine attributes; the immutable promises; the covenant, ordered in all things and sure; the providence, predestination, and proved faithfulness of the Lord – these are the hills to which we must lift up our eyes, and from these our help must come."

**A. Life Is A Journey – A Pilgrimage.**

**B. Life Is A Fear-Laden Journey.**

**C. God Provides Only One Answer to Our Fears, and It is Him, Period!**

### III. The Worshipper's Confidence (121:2-8)

**A. God Is the Creator of All Things (121:2).** *My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

**B. God Is the Supplier of All Needs (121:3-6).** *He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

As the Israelites made their way to Jerusalem, they needed protection from three things: (1) Protection from injury; (2) Protection from nature; and (3) Protection from enemies. All three things are alluded to in these verses.

**C. God Is the Protector from All Evil (121:7-8).** *The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

These verses remind us of that great corresponding passage in Romans 8:35-39 and that great doxology that ends the book of Jude.

James Montgomery Boyce: “Is it actually true that we will be protected from all harm if God is with us? Sometimes Christians are accused of being unrealistic, and this accusation is probably true in many instances. But the Bible is not unrealistic – neither in Psalm 121, nor in Romans, nor in Jude. When Psalm 121 says, *My help comes from the Lord*, it is acknowledging that we are going to need help on our journey. When it speaks of the Lord watching over us day and night, it implies that we need watching. Similarly, when Jude writes that *God is able to keep us from stumbling*, he is admitting

that there is much that would cause us to fall and even that we sometimes do fall but that God can and does bring us through to his glorious presence in heaven in spite of it.”

#### **IV. Application**

**A. All People Struggle with Fear.** The great issue is, not so much that we fear, but does the fear control us?

1. Why do we fear?
2. What do we fear? Examples include physical fears, social fears, personal fears, and spiritual fears/fear of death.

#### **B. What Should We Do With Our Fears?**

1. Embrace our inadequacy and insecurity.
2. Entwine ourselves around the Lord. Here are some great verses for meditation related to fear: Psalm 27:1; 138:7; 18:6; 18:28; 18:30; 77:1-2; 18:6; 34:4; Isaiah 43:1; Isaiah 43:5; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18.
3. Enter the arena of life for His glory.