

"Look to the Hills"
Ps. 121:1-8
10-9-16 Sun AM

Bible scholars tell us that Hezekiah wrote this psalm when the Assyrian army was threatening Judea and Jerusalem. So we see Hezekiah awaiting the onslaught of the invader. The situation seemed desperate.

By the way, this is a psalm that Jews sang repeatedly in their history when their situation looked dark and the future bleak.

TT- We need to realize two great truths when the situation seems dark or bleak...

I. The Lord is My King (121:1-2). News had come that the Assyrian army is headed to Jerusalem.

What did Hezekiah do?

1. v. 1- He looked to the Inspiring Hills. (Mountain trip)

Q- When were the mountains formed? Creationist say at creation on the third day [Gen. 1:9-10], while others say during the flood. Evolutionist say gradually over billions of years.

The question is answered in **Psalm 104 5-8.**

The psalmist does not mean that his help would come from the hills. The psalmist lifted his eyes past the hills to his sufficient helper, the Creator.

1. v. 1- He looked to the Inspiring Hills.

2. v. 2- He looked to the Sufficient Helper.

Isaiah 40:9-12, "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

(10) Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. (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. (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?

I. The Lord is My King (121:1-2).

II. The Lord is My Keeper (121:3-8).

The Lord is able to take care of our every problem.
In fact he repeats it six times in vs. 3-8. He can help us when...

1. vs. 3-4- We are Weary.

(1). v. 3a- The Lord knows how easy it is for us to Slip.

The psalmist hopes that God will not allow the king to slip because he had taken a bold stand against the Assyrian army.

We all know how easy it is to "slip" in our commitments to God. We make a strong commitment to God, his church, or other people, and then slip. We have second thoughts.

Where do second thoughts come from? We know that they are not always right. Our cautious side comes out in second thoughts.

(2). v. 3b-4- The Lord knows how easy it is for us to sleep.

It is easy to "settle in" and not carry our commitment. The king needed to stay awake and he prayed that God would keep a watchful eye on him.

God does not sleep, He is always awake and alert to his creation. God does not slip or sleep in weariness.

1. vs. 3-4- We are Weary.

2. vs. 5-6- We are Weak.

(1). v. 5- We are vulnerable on all sides.

Note the word "right hand." The right hand is the sword hand so the psalmist sees God taking up his stand on the king's right hand so that His right hand.

Our weakness is offset by God's strength. We are covered by his stand. We never know where the attack will come. He may attacked by enemies, friends, and even families.

Sometimes the enemy attacks us our weakness and sometimes our strength.

1. Elijah's strong point was his courage, yet he fled from Jezebel.
2. Moses was a man of meekness, yet he lost his temper and struck the rock twice.
3. Abraham's strength was his faith, yet he went to Egypt in unbelief (Gen. 12:10-13:2).

(2). v. 6- We are vulnerable at all seasons.

We know heat stroke or sunstroke is dangerous, but have you thought about being

moonstruck.

I learned that the word "lunatic" comes from the word moon. Thus the increased activity on the full moon. God is able to keep us by day or night.

1. vs. 3-4- We are Weary.
2. vs. 5-6- We are Weak.
3. v. 7- We are Wicked.

God will keep us from evil and moral depravity. Evil people gloat over what they do to innocent people. Hezekiah was faced by a very wicked people. This verse also speaks of our wicked hearts. The flesh is utterly depraved and capable of anything.

Rom. 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

We overcome by the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, everywhere in the NT where the flesh is mentioned, the Spirit is as well.

Gal. 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Note v. 7 a little closer- "He will preserve my soul" Eternal security in the OT. He delivers us from the penalty of sin, but delivers us from the power of sin, and preserve us from the presence of sin.

1. vs. 3-4- We are Weary.
2. vs. 5-6- We are Weak.
3. v. 7- We are Wicked.
4. v. 8- We are Wayward.

Hezekiah was shut up in Jerusalem and there was no going out and coming in. Soon God would spite the Assyrian army at the gates of Jerusalem and the gates would be open again.

Each time the Jew went out he would take a portion of the Word of God. Devout Jews today keep a small metal cylinder fixed to the right-hand door post of their homes. This contained a parchment of the Scriptures Deut. 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. They would touch the cylinder in passing and recite Ps. 121:8. The Word of God keeps us pure and mindful of God.

God is our sufficient helper in dark and bleak times in weariness, weakness, wickedness, and in our waywardness.