

Eternal Security Psalm 121

As pilgrims going up to Jerusalem, God's people would sing the Songs of Ascents. These are found in the book of Psalms as Psalms 120-134. As they were getting closer to Jerusalem they would see the hills that surrounded the holy city. This is the background for the opening of this Psalm, "I lift up my eyes to the hills". As these travelers saw these hills, they likely reminded them of their source of help. These hills were near Jerusalem, which was on Mount Zion, which was among these hills. The God of Israel had chosen to cause his name to dwell in Jerusalem and they were going there to worship Him. The LORD was the source of their help, as the first couplet of the Psalm goes on to affirm. But, the hills they saw up ahead would have also reminded them of their need for help. Traveling up and around the hills could be dangerous. There was the danger of thieves as well as the danger of tripping as they traveled up and among these hills. They needed to assure themselves and each other that the LORD was their helper as they journeyed to Jerusalem.

In first couplet, verses 1 and 2, the pronouns are first person, "I" and "my". Here the Psalmist and those singing this Psalm were speaking about themselves and to themselves. Here we find the answer to the question, "What should we say to ourselves, as pilgrims, when we feel vulnerable and insecure?" We are constantly talking to ourselves. These verses guide us to tell ourselves the right things, as we do. Based on these verses, we should tell ourselves, "I have the always faithful and all-powerful LORD as my helper. "The LORD" appears 5 times in this Psalm. It is the name that identifies God as the Covenant God his people. As the Covenant God, He is always faithful. But we are also told at the end of v2, He is the Creator God. As the Creator God he is all-powerful. He is our always committed and always capable helper.

In the rest of the Psalm, the pronouns are second person, "Your" and "You". Here the Psalmist and those singing were speaking to others. These final three couplets answer the question, "What should we say to others, as pilgrim, when they feel vulnerable and insecure?" The essence of what we say to fellow pilgrims to encourage them on their journey is that this LORD is our "keeper". The word "keep" appears six times in verses 3-8 in different ways to assure that our LORD will protect and preserve his people.

Particularly, we should encourage others on this journey to the heavenly Jerusalem by assuring them that the LORD will preserve his people from slipping, at all times and without failure. (v3-4) When walking near a ledge, if one's foot is moved, begins to slide, the result could be fatal. But God will not let your foot be moved, we are told. This points to the spiritual parallel, God won't let your soul be lost. Jude 24 communicates what this points to "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy..." God will keep his people from stumbling or slipping and from not being presented blameless before God with great joy. God will bring his children to their glorious eternal home.

Also, we should encourage others on this journey that the LORD will protect his people like shade, from this time and throughout forever. (v5-8) The dangers we may face and fears we may have, in the day or the night, will not keep us from arriving safely in God's presence. God will be with us in all our going out and coming in here and hereafter. Every time we arrive somewhere safely, we should thank God that we have, and that we will, when it comes to our final destination as God's people.

Those who are God's people by faith in Christ, can be assured that God will bring us home to heaven. We can be sure of this because "He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how will he not with Him freely give us all things?" If God gave his Son to die on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins, we can be sure he will give us all the things promised to his children through Christ: eternal life, glory and joy in God's presence forever. God gave the greatest gift by giving his Son for us. Would God not give us all Christ's life and death were intended to provide and achieve for his people, making it all ineffective and unnecessary? No, the LORD is committed to and capable of bringing his people home to heaven. Because the LORD is our keeper, his people have eternal security.