



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

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WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

March 2nd, 2022

“The First Song of Ascent”

Psalm 120

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight...

—C.H.S.

PSALM 120

SUBJECT. —A certain author supposes that this hymn was sung by an Israelite upon leaving his house to go up to Jerusalem. He thinks that the good man had suffered from the slander of his neighbours, and was glad to get away from their gossip, and spend his time in the happier engagements of the holy feasts. It may be so, but we hope that pious people were not so foolish as to sing about their bad neighbours when they were leaving them for a few days. If they wished to leave their houses in safety, and to come home to kind surroundings, it would have been the height of folly to provoke those whom they were leaving behind by singing aloud a psalm of complaint against them. We do not know why this ode is placed first among the Psalms of Degrees, and we had rather hazard no conjecture of our own. We prefer the old summary of the translators— "David prayeth against Doeg" —to any far-fetched supposition: and if this be the scope of the psalm, we see at once why it suggested itself to David at the station where the ark abode, and from which he had come to remove it. He came to fetch away the ark, and at the place where he found it he thought of Doeg, and poured out his plaint concerning him. The author had been grievously calumniated, and had been tortured into bitterness by the false charges of his persecutors, and here is his appeal to the great Arbiter of right and wrong, before whose judgment-seat no man shall suffer from slanderous tongues.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VI, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 120

INSTRUCTION. Lies, deceit, slander and false accusations (v2b) can cause distress and anguish of soul (v1). Yet, the only relief from a deceitful tongue is deliverance from the LORD (v2a). How will the LORD remedy this deceitful tongue (v3)? By the sharp, piercing truth of His Warrior Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the glowing, hot, Juniper tree embers of His gospel (v4)! The unkindness and unfriendliness of lies and slander is as if we lived in the foreign lands of Japheth's son, Meshech, and Ishmael's son, Kedar (v5), men whose presence constantly defied God's people (v6). Jesus, who is Himself peace incarnate (v7a), when He speaks, their warring opposition to grace, truth, and peace, is evident (v7b).

REFLECTION. Since the lies of Satan helped prompt Adam's fall, all men are born liars (Psa 58:3). The Lord Jesus, who is very Truth (John 14:6), came into a world full of lies, was condemned to death by the religious world with lies and false witnesses, was mocked with slanderous lies while He hung upon the cross, and was lied about in an attempt to cover up His resurrection. Although lies plunged the world into death and deceit, and lies and false accusations put the Savior of the world to death, all lies are exposed by the light of Christ's truth; and one day, all lies and deceit will be put away forever by the light of Christ's return, judgment, and consummation of all things (Rev 22:8, 27).

APPLICATION. While lies are hurtful darts when they are aimed toward us, consider how the corruptions of our flesh cause us to lie, speak untruths, employ deceit or maliciously slander others. Read **v2** again in the light of this understanding. Does this now make **v2** a petition more than a complaint?

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 120

READ JAMES 3:2. How can a lie, deceit, or untruth cause you and me to stumble? How can overcoming lies in our lives help us to stand in the maturity of Jesus Christ by bridling our whole body?

REFLECT UPON how a single lie can dishonor God, shame the Lord Jesus Christ, and grieve the Holy Spirit. List the ways by which a lie can do so. How does an understanding of this help you to shun untruth and live without lies?

REMEMBER the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). How can an understanding of this prayer help you to avoid lies in your life? How can an active prayer life help keep you from lying? How can an active prayer life help you when others lie about you, deceive you or slander you?

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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