

Date: 6-12-2022-AM

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: Psalm 124

Title: "If it had not been the LORD"

Pastor Josh Montgomery

Introduction:

Degrees comes from a root word that means "ascents" or to "go up, as ascending stairs.

There are 15 of these Psalms in order.

10 are anonymous authors (most people believe Hezekiah), 4 are attributed to David and 1 is title "a song of Degrees for Solomon" (Psalm 127) meaning Solomon was not the author, but it was written for his benefit.

It is commonly agreed that these Psalms were sung by the Israelites when they journeyed to Jerusalem for the 3 feast each year. Passover in the spring, Pentecost in early summer and Tabernacles in the Fall.

It has also been suggested that the Temple had 15 steps, and that the people would sing these Psalms as they ascended the steps of the Temple to Worship God.

I Kings 10:4-5 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, 5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her.

We note the Authorship of this Psalm is attributed to the Sweet Psalmist of Israel, David.

There are a number of times in David's life when he could have written this Psalm.

It could have been after the slaying of Goliath.

It could have been when God delivered him out of Saul's hand or out of the hand of Absalom.

We do not know for sure the circumstances of this Psalm, but we are certain of the Celebration in this Psalm!

End of Introduction:

I. The Enemy Examined. Vs 2-5

David understands and comprehends in this text that he is not a "self-made man" but rather he knows that if it were not for the LORD, he would not have made it through this difficult time in his life.

1. We note the **Details** of the Enemy.

A. They were Opposing. Vs 2b

“when men rose up against us:”

If you are living for the LORD, be assured that there will be those that will rise up against you!

B. They were Oncoming. Vs 3a

“Then they had swallowed us up quick,”

This speaks of the suddenness of their attack.

C. They were Outraged. Vs 3b

“when their wrath was kindled against us:”

This speaks of the reason for their attack, they hate God’s people!

D. They were Overwhelming. Vs 4

“Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:”

The word “Overwhelmed” means to engulf, to over flow.

E. They were Overcoming. Vs 5

“Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.”

This little phrase implies that the enemy was successful in his endeavor against David.

2. We note the Desire of the Enemy.

A. They wanted to Defeat him. Vs 2b-3

“when men rose up against us: 3 Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:”

The term "swallow up" pictures hungry, wild beasts attacking and devouring men. The word "quick" means "alive ." Wild beasts often begin to devour their prey before it is actually dead. The enemies of the godly would like to make a full and quick end to the Church of God. But, though we are fewer in number and weaker in strength, we will ultimately prevail.

B. They wanted to Drown him. Vs 4-5

“Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: 5 Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.”

Drowning occurs when what you are in and around begins to fill you.

Once it begins to get inside of you, it starts to take you to the bottom!

C. They wanted to Deceive him. Vs 7

“the snare of the fowlers”

The word “Fowlers” here means to lure, entice, snare, lay a snare or lure, set a trap.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

D. They wanted to **Detain him. Vs 7**

“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.”

The word “Snare” in this text refers to a trap.

E. They wanted to **Devour him. Vs 6**

“Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.”

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

II. The Encouragement Explained. Vs 1-2

We do not find a “discouraged” Man in this Psalm, but rather an “Encouraged” man!

1. He was Encouraged by the LORD’s **Person. Vs 1-2**

“The LORD”

What does this title LORD mean in reality?

A. He is **Self Existent.**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

B. He is **Sovereignly Eternal.**

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not

C. He is an **Supreme Expert.**

The Word LORD also gives this idea of being an Expert in any area that you bring before him.

2. He was Encouraged by the LORD’s **Presence. Vs 1-2**

“If it had not been the LORD who was on our side”

The Lord's presence turns a minority into a majority in any situation.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

3. He was Encouraged by the LORD's Peace. Vs 1-2

“our side”

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Psalms 56:9 When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

Romans 8:36-37 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **Nay**, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Psalms 44:22 **Yea**, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

What took it from “Yea” to “Nay” Calvary! We have peace now that we are going to make it!

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

4. He was Encouraged by the LORD's Prevailing. Vs 1-2

“If it had not been”

David was very much aware of the fact that if it had not been for the LORD that he would not be:

- Alive
- Active
- Or Around!

III. The Exaltation Expressed. Vs 6-8

1. He Exalts the LORD's Authority. Vs 6a

“Blessed be the LORD”

2. He Exalts the LORD's Actions. Vs 6b

“who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.”

David was thankful that God intervened on his behalf!

3. He Exalts the LORD's Affection. Vs 7

“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.”

God saw David as a little bird caught in a snare that could not help himself, and he reached down in love and helped him!

4. He Exalts the LORD's Assistance. Vs 8

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

David reminds us of the truth that the one who is on our side, helping us and guiding us is the same one who created all that we see and enjoy today! What a God!

Conclusion:

It would do us all well to consider what we lost, what we were, where we've been, where we were headed, but also what we have, what we are, where we are going, and who is taking us there!

If it had not been the LORD!!