

SUMMER in the PSALMS



Daily Readings Week 4

MONDAY 07.26.21 Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is a psalm of trust and confidence in God, assuring pilgrims on the way to and from Jerusalem of God's protection. Lifting of one's eyes to the hills (v.1) may be a reference to Mt. Zion (The Temple Mountain). As Christians, we do not believe that God lives in a Temple, but the idea of lifting our eyes to God is still important. How do we lift our eyes to God today?

TUESDAY 07.27.21 Psalm 124

Psalm 124 is a community psalm of thanksgiving for deliverance from some major peril. The psalmist compares Israel to animal who has escaped harm (vs. 6-7) because of the Lord's intervention. Verse 1-2 give the Lord credit for Israel's rescue from danger. How has the Lord been on your side (vs. 1-2) in difficult times?

WEDNESDAY 07.28.21 Psalm 138

Psalm 138 is an individual psalm of thanksgiving for God's help on the psalmist's behalf. Verse 7 is reminiscent of Psalm 23 (though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death). This is another psalm that reminds of God's continued presence in the midst of trouble. What trouble do you need God to walk with you (v. 7) today? Take time to call out to God (v. 3) for help.

THURSDAY 07.29.21 Psalm 141

Psalm 141 is a wisdom psalm as it presents the "two ways": the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. The righteous will turn their eyes toward God (v.8) and God will protect them from the traps of the wicked (v.10). The key to finding the righteous path is prayer (vs. 1-2) which the psalmist compares to incense and sacrifice. How can our prayer life keep us on the path of righteous and our eyes fixated on God?

FRIDAY 07.30.21 Psalm 146

Psalm 146 is the first of five closing Hallelujah (Praise the Lord) psalms that close the book of Psalms. The psalmist declares that God is worthy of praise because God is more trustworthy than mortals (vs.3-4) and because God cares for all people, the oppressed, the hungry, the prisoner, the blind, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger (vs. 7-9). How has God demonstrated care for you?

SATURDAY 07.31.21 Psalm 150

We close with the final Hallelujah psalm which is powerful ending to the book of psalms. This Hallelujah psalm recounts no benefits and asks for nothing. Psalm 150 is sheer praise (the word occurs 13 times in its six verses). The psalmist invites all that breathes (animals and humans) to join in the great chorus of "Praise the Lord." Sometimes, we need to come before the Lord and just praise him for his mighty deeds!