

PSALM 123-124 – Prayer for Relief from Contempt; The LORD the Defense of His People!

9/25/21 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

Psa 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

Psa 123:3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY – John Petersen, Alfred Smith – Graham Crusade Choir (2:56)

A pilgrim was I, and a wandering, In the cold night of sin I did roam,
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.

(Chorus):

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.

He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day;
He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way. (Chorus)

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, And I shall feast at the table spread for me;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.
All the days, all the days of my life.

Our Eyes Look to the Lord Our God - A Song of Ascents.

Psa 123:1 Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.

- It is good to have someone to look up to. The Psalmist looked so high that he could look no higher.
- Not to the hills, but to the God of the hills he looked. God is everywhere, and yet it is most natural to think of Him as being above us, in that glory-land which lies beyond the skies.
- *O You who dwell in the heavens!* This just sets forth the unsophisticated idea of a child of God in distress;
- God is, God is in heaven, God resides in one place, and God is evermore the same, therefore will I look to Him. When we cannot look to any helper on a level with us it is greatly wise to look above us; in fact, if we have a thousand helpers, our eyes should still be toward the Lord. Let us think no hour of the day inopportune for waiting upon the Lord; no watch of the night too dark for us to look to Him.

Psa 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

- See, O Lord, how we look to You, and in Your mercy, look on us. This Behold has, however, a call to us to observe and consider. Sanctification is a miracle of grace; therefore let us behold it.
- For God to have wrought in men the spirit of service is a great marvel, and as such let all men turn aside and see this great sight.
- *As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress;* This second comparison may be used because Eastern women are even more thorough than the men in the training of their servants.
- *So our eyes look to the LORD our God.* Believers desire to be attentive to each and all of the directions of the Lord; even those which concern apparently little things are not little to us, for we know that even for idle words we shall be called to account, and we are anxious to give in that account with joy, and not with grief.
- *Until He has mercy on us.* That He have mercy upon us because of that covenant. He will show mercy to us; but we may have to wait for it." God has His time and season. We must wait until it comes.
- Mercy is that which we need, that which we look for, that which our Lord will manifest to us.
- It is a great mercy to be enabled to wait for mercy.

Psa 123:3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.

- *Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy upon us!* He hangs upon the word “mercy,” and embodies it in a vehement prayer, the very word seems to hold him, and he harps upon it. It is well for us to pray about everything, and turn everything into prayer; and especially when we are reminded of a great necessity we should catch at it as a keynote, and pitch our tune to it.
- The reduplication of the prayer before us is meant to express the eagerness of the Psalmist's spirit and his urgent need, what he needed speedily he begs for fervently! Our contemptuous opponents will have no mercy upon us. Let us not ask it at their hands, but turn to the God of mercy, and seek His aid alone.
- *For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.* A little contempt they could bear, but now they were satiated with it, and weary of it. Do we wonder at the threefold mention of mercy when this master evil was in the ascendant? Nothing is more wounding, embittering, festering than disdain. Oh to be filled with communion, and then contempt will run off from us, and never be able to fill us with its biting vinegar.

Psa 123:4 Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.

- *Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease.* Knowing no troubles of their own, the easy ones grow cruel and deride the people of the Lord. Having the godly already in secret contempt, they show it by openly scorning them. Note those who do this' they are not the poor, the humble, the troubled, but those who have a merry life of it and are self-content. Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion; their contempt of the godly shall hasten and increase their misery.
- *With the contempt of the proud.* The proud think so much of themselves that they must needs think all the less of those who are better than themselves. Pride is both contemptible and contemptuous. Great hearts have been broken and brave spirits have been withered beneath the accursed power of falsehood, and the horrible blight of contempt.
- For our comfort we may remember that our divine Lord was despised and rejected of men, yet He ceased not from his perfect service till He was exalted to dwell in the heavens. Let us bear our share of this evil which still rages under the sun, and let us firmly believe that the contempt of the ungodly shall turn to our honour in the world to come. Even now it serves as a certificate that we are not of the world, for if we were of the world the world would love us as its own.

Our Help Is in the Name of the Lord

Psa 124:1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say—

- So now the beginning of the worship. *If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, Let Israel now say!* The opening sentence is abrupt, and remains a fragment. By such a commencement attention was aroused as well as feeling expressed. This is ever the way of poetic fire - to break forth in uncontrollable flame!
- The Lord was on our side, and is still our defender, and will be so from henceforth, even forever! Let us with holy confidence exult in this joyful fact. We are far too slow in declaring our gratitude, hence the exclamation which should be rendered, “Let Israel now say. Are not all the materials of a song spread before us? Let us sing unto the Lord.

Psa 124:2 "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us,

- When all men combined, and the whole race of men seemed set upon destroying the house of Israel, what must have happened if the covenant Lord had not interposed? When they stirred themselves, and combined to make an assault upon our quietude and safety, what should we have done in their rising if the Lord had not also risen? No one who could or would help was near, but the bare arm of the Lord sufficed to preserve his own against all the leagued hosts of adversaries! We rejoice because the Lord was on our side!

Psa 124:3 Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us;

- They were so eager for our destruction that they would have made only one morsel of us, and have swallowed us up alive and whole in a single instant. The fury of the enemies of the church is raised to the highest pitch, nothing will content them but the total annihilation of God's chosen. Their wrath is like a fire which is kindled, and has taken such firm hold upon the fuel that there is no quenching it. Anger is never more fiery than when the people of God are its objects. Sparks become flames, and the furnace is heated seven times hotter when God's elect are to be thrust into the blaze. The cruel world would make a full end of the godly seed were it not that Jehovah bars the way.

Psa 124:4 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul;

- *Then the waters would have overwhelmed us.*” Rising irresistibly, like the Nile, the flood of opposition would soon have rolled over our heads. Across the mighty waste of waters we should have cast an anxious eye, but looked in vain for escape.
- *The stream would have gone over our soul.* The rushing torrent would have drowned our soul, our hope, our life. figures seem to be the steadily-rising flood, and the hurriedly-rushing stream. Who can stand against two such mighty powers? But for Him where would we be at this very hour? We have experienced seasons in which the combined forces of earth and hell must have made an end of us had not omnipotent grace interfered for our rescue.

Psa 124:5 Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul."

- We would have been destroyed. We wouldn't have survived if the Lord had not been with us. Had not God been with us our disdainful enemies would have made nothing of us, and dashed over us as a mountain torrent sweeps down the side of a hill, driving everything before it.
- Let us pause here, and as we see what might have been, let us adore the guardian power which has kept us in the flood, and yet above the flood. In our hours of dire peril we must have perished had not our Preserver prevailed for our safe keeping.

Psa 124:6 Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

- Now that goes back to the enemies who surrounded us who would have swallowed us up when they were angry with us if it had not been for the Lord. God didn't give us as a prey to them.
- The verse reads like a merely negative blessing, but no boon can be more positively precious. He has given us to His Son Jesus. He will never give us to our enemies.

Psa 124:7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped.

- Talking now about the mind, the emotions, to which you're so caught in this. I see no way out. I feel like I'm trapped and I feel like there's just no way out of this dilemma. Many times a person feels trapped in the conditions that they are. It's a horrible feeling to think, Man, this is the rest of my life? I feel like a bird that was caught in the trap but yet I was able to escape out of the trap for the snare of the fowlers.
- *The snare is broken, and we are escaped.* Fowlers have many methods of taking small birds, and Satan, has many methods of entrapping souls. Fowlers know their birds, and how to take them; but the birds see not the snare so as to avoid it, and they cannot break it so as to escape from it. Happy is the bird that has a Deliverer strong, and mighty, and ready in the moment of peril; happier still is the soul over which the Lord watches day and night to pluck its feet out of the net. What joy there is in this song, "our soul is escaped." We have been tempted, but not taken; cast down, but not destroyed; perplexed, but not in despair; in deaths oft, but still alive, blessed be Jehovah!

Psa 124:8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

- Because God is my help. Again, the idea of creation and the Creator. He made the heaven and the earth. And it's such an important concept to hold whenever you're in trouble.
- Whenever you're desperate and you go to God in prayer. It's important to remember God's power. To realize that I'm calling upon the One Who is so great as to have created this universe.

ALWAYS - Kristian Stanfill (5:42)

My foes are many, they rise against me But I will hold my ground I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm
My help is on the way, my help is on the way

Refrain: Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always I will not fear, His promise is true

My God will come through always, always

Troubles surround me, chaos abounding My soul will rest in You I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm

My help is on the way, my help is on the way (Refrain)

I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord (4X)

From You Lord, from You Lord

Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always I will not fear, His promise is true

My God will come through always, always Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always, always

I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord (4X)

From You Lord, from You Lord

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE

OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!

Prayer Request List: Eastern Africa -Uganda/Congo

Pastor Ed Cornwell – Departing Sept 1 for 1-2 months; Planning on moving there within the coming year.

(1) CC KASEGA Senior pastor : Opech Francis and ass: Omusugu Christopher. Prayer request : - To reach out to the lost through radio preaching of the gospel. - projector for gospel - ministry truck to reach out to different places to carry on the gospel - God's provision to the elderly, widows, and orphans because we have many. - God's provision to the school of ministry/Discipleship class to resume again.

(2) CC NAZIGO. Pastor Ocho Augustine. Prayer request : Completion of the church building.

(3) CC NAMALUMBA. #Senior pr: Damba Richard and ass pr Isaac mugambi

-Prayer request : Completion of the church building loan in the bank.

(4) CC LWANYAMA. # Senior pr Charles Baliraine and ass Pr Simon Nabuti : Prayer request. - Piggery project to sustain the ministry - Encouragement to the weakening church members.

(5) CC BUDOODA. # Senior pr Charles Muwanguzi and ass pr Noah Byaruhanga .:

Prayer request. - Poverty is too much in members and leaders. - Shifting of the church building to the new location due to water table here.

(6) Cc KITEREDE.

Senior pr Cosmas Konyo .:Prayer request. - Evangelism instruments; - Completion of their semi-permanent church building and seats.

(7) CC KISOZI. # Senior pr : kezekia : Prayer request. – Rent; -piggery project to buy church land.

(8) CC BUGIRI. # Senior pr : Papa Jofrey .: Prayer request : - Church construction (iron sheets); - Evangelism instruments - Door to door evangelism.

In addition: pastor Oyet from AMURU UGANDA the new Calvary in far north of Uganda. Also, Pastor Hassan has a church in a SURROUNDING VILLAGE OF KAMPALA. Also, Pastor Faustin in the CONGOLESE REFUGEE CAMP IN UGANDA.

Lastly pastor Aaron of CC KAJJANSI - 1. school of ministry , we need God's guidance, wisdom, and provision 2. Our extension of the church building God to provide so we can put a roof on the expansion part of the church be4 the wall becomes weak. 3. Aaron and Rebecca needs capital to restock their business so we can support our family and the church. 4. prayers for children who have been out of school for about 2 years now that they may not become spoiled and remain focused. 5. Our government to consider reopening of churches