

PSALM 124 2024 – *The LORD the Defense of His People! We owe everything to the fact that the LORD is on our side!*

3/9/24 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST Isaac Watts (1708) – (1:51) Festival Choir/Hosanna Chorus

*O God, **our help** in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.*

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—

- **If it wasn't for the LORD!** 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,

- **If it wasn't for the LORD!** 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! "*My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.*" — Abraham Lincoln

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* - our very life! The rushing torrent would have drowned our soul, our hope, our life. The 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 has 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! He kept us alive so we could be saved!

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. (*Jer 32:27*) "*Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?*"

ALWAYS - Kristian Stanfill (4:24)

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)

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!

CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW LOCATION!!