

**CP - 6/2/24**

## **Psalms of Ascent – Psalm 120**

**Psalm 120 arises from a discomfort from this world and a cry for deliverance.**

- Jerusalem sat some 2,700 feet high upon Mount Zion.
- These psalms were sung by pilgrim Jews who journeyed to Jerusalem to attend the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.
- The journey was a spiritual going-up as much as a physical one.
- It was a progression from way off to the most intimate closeness.
- They were headed to where God's presence dwelt.
- Set our eyes on things above
- Singing has a way of moving our physical and spiritual eyes upward.
- No matter where we are, we have the great privilege to seek the Lord's presence.

### **1. The Cry for Deliverance (120:1–2)**

- "In my distress, I called to the Lord"
  - We see both struggle and trust mingled together.
  - "called" – past tense, completed action (looking back)
  - So remembering God's deliverance then, the psalmist is asking for it now.
  - "me" = my soul (the deepest part of me)
- God hears you! ("answered me")
- God will deliver you!
  - The current
    - My mind, will, emotions
    - When we go to God, we can bring all our sins and situations before Him, and He hears us.
  - The eventual
    - We won't stay in that foreign land.
    - He will get us home and deliver us from the world and everything in it.

### **2. The Caution to Deceivers (120:3–4)**

- The Psalmist speaks strong words to deceivers here.
- It is a caution to not get too comfortable in their lies.
- When you attack God's child, you better watch out!
- Sharp arrows tipped with glowing coals
- How foolish it is to set yourself against God and His people!

- God will avenge!
  - Romans 12:19: “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”
  - Proverbs 20:22: “Do not say, ‘I will repay evil’; wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.”
  - Don’t take matters into your own hands; God will take care of it!
- God uses their own tactics.
  - “sharp arrows with burning coals”
  - Punishment

### **3. The Concern for the Devoted (120:5–7)**

- “Meshech”— son of Japheth, whose children were barbarous; this place is often mentioned with Gog and Magog.
- “Kedar”— son of Ishmael
- These two locations are hundreds of miles apart.
- You’re a foreigner.
  - You may be dwelling, but you don’t belong there.
- You’re a temporary dweller.
  - “dwell in tents”— temporary
  - Eyes set on heaven
- You’re different.

### **Application**

- The Holy Spirit is within you, no matter where you find yourself.
- God sees you and hears you.
- God’s answer for deliverance is always yes; it’s just a matter of timing.
- This world is not our home, so don’t try to make it your home.