



Author: King David; Asaph; the Sons of Korah; Moses; others

Time: 11th to 6th centuries BC

Purpose: To express hope in the Lord God for salvation, using prayers and praises spoken by God's people at the tabernacle and temple or by individuals

Outline:

Book One: Psalms 1–41

intensely personal psalms of David

Book Two: Psalms 42–72

psalms of David and the kingdom; nationalistic

Book Three: Psalms 73–89

psalms of Asaph and the Sons of Korah; nationalistic

Book Four: Psalms 90–106

anonymous psalms and laments

Book Five: Psalms 107–150

songs of ascents and praise; psalms of David

Key Verses: The Shepherd Psalm (ch. 23); sincere repentance (51:7–12); the Lord reigns (ch. 110); the Psalm of the Word (119:105–107); the Mission Psalm (145:4–13)

Key People: King David; the nation of Israel; "the righteous"

Places: Chiefly Jerusalem

The Psalms

The Prayer Book of the Bible

Psalm 121

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
He will keep your life.
- ⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

One of the "Psalms of Ascent" (Pss 120–134)

Attitude of the psalmist

Outline

Vv 1–2: search for help

Vv 3–4 the Lord keeps Israel

Vv 5–6 the Lord protects at all times

Vv 7–8 the Lord will keep you forevermore

Things to note:

- pairs
- characteristics of God
- activities of God
- repetition of words and phrases

Key terms:

- Lord
- hills
- help
- made
- foot moved
- slumber/sleep
- shade/shadow
- sun/moon
- keep
- going out/coming in

Uses of this psalm

Collect for Psalm 121

Father in heaven, You neither slumber nor sleep; in faith our eyes are lifted up to You to deliver us. Keep us from all evil, watch over our coming and going, and bring us into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Coming up next . . . Psalm 136