

The Psalms

Psalms

121,127,130,133,136

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”
Ps. 119:105

Thursday Bible Study
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

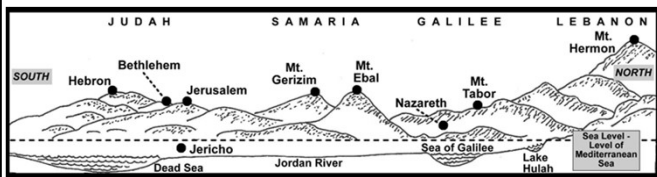
1

Psalms 120 – 134 – To Jerusalem for Worship

- Each of the fifteen Psalms (120 – 134) are called “A Song of Ascents”. These psalms were apparently sung by worshippers as they journeyed up to Jerusalem for annual festivals.
- They are arranged in a sequence as travelers come through the country, up to Jerusalem, and finally into the temple.
- They were called “Psalms of Ascents” because there is no other way to get to Jerusalem but to go up.

2

Psalms 120 – 134 – To Jerusalem for Worship



3

Psalm 121 – My Help Comes From the Lord

- 1 – “I lift my eyes to the hills” - The traveler looks to the hills of Mt. Moriah and Mt Zion where the Ark of God was, Who would deliver him.
- Or – “shall I lift up my eyes to the hills?” Should I look to the idols where were on “high places.” No, I will not!
- 1 Kings 14:22-24

4

Psalm 121 – My Help Comes From the Lord

- 2 – Our help comes from Yahweh. This would be the answer to the idle worship of high places.
- 3-4 – He doesn’t slumber or sleep. Like the Baals. (1 Kings 18:27)
- 5-6 – God’s protective hand is like a shade tree. To protect your right hand is to enable you to remain strong.
- 7-8 – Yahweh guards our whole life. We can’t go anywhere that He is not watching over us.

5

Psalm 127 – Lost without God

- 1 - The Psalm reminds the pilgrim that all of life’s securities and blessings are gifts from God.
- “Building a house” – not a physical structure, but building a life. No matter what we do,, we need God’s blessing if it is to succeed.
- God is the true Watchman. He is always alert.

6

Psalm 127 – Lost without God

- 2 – Success depends solely on God. If I work harder, longer hours, it won't be better. Instead we are told to relax.
- 3 – Children are a gift from God – a sign of His favor.
- 4-5 – The man with several sons was well defended.

7

Psalm 130 – A Psalm of Trust in the Lord

- This Psalm is a testimony of trust in the Lord by one who knows that God hears him, even if he is a sinner.
- 1-2 – Out of the depths of despair he calls on the Lord to hear him, even though he knows he is a sinner and does not deserve God's help.
- 3-4 – A basic truth. If God kept track of sins, we are all doomed. But God does not count our sins. He forgives instead.

8

Psalm 130 – A Psalm of Trust in the Lord

- 5-6 – Wait for the Lord. We offer our prayers, but then we wait for Him to answer, just the way the watchman waits for the coming dawn.
- 7-8 – All Israel is called upon to wait for the Lord, because God will help. He will come with forgiveness. He will redeem Israel – points to the Messiah.

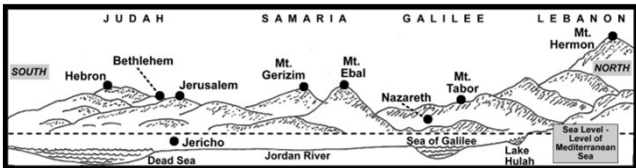
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Psalm 133 – A Psalm celebrating unity

- A song in praise of brotherly unity among the people of God. Perhaps when David was made king?
- 1 – How great it is when brothers live together in unity! Sin always divides, so unity only comes with grace and forgiveness.
- 2 – The picture of the anointing of the high priest. It signifies total consecration to holy service.

10

Psalm 133 – A Psalm celebrating unity



- 3 – Mt. Hermon and Mt. Zion (Jerusalem) were far apart and in different climates. Mt Hermon was lush, Mt. Zion was dry. So brotherly unity would make Israel fruitful.

11

Psalm 136 – A Liturgy of Praise to the Creator and Redeemer

- This Psalm is obviously a liturgical psalm of praise, with the same refrain for each verse. It is a liturgy of praise to the Lord as Creator and Israel's redeemer.
- 1 – The same words as Ps. 118:1. Note, the KJV uses "mercy".
- 2 – Hebrew: "The Elohim of mighty ones!"

12

Psalm 136 – A Liturgy of Praise to the Creator and Redeemer

- 3 – Hebrew – “The Master of masters.” God is greater than any other god you can think of.
- 4 – He alone does great wonders. There is no other God who created the world.
- 5 – 9 – A review of God’s creative power.
- 6 – “Upon the waters” - the earth was seen as being set on foundations with water below the surface.

13

Psalm 136 – A Liturgy of Praise to the Creator and Redeemer

- 10 – 15 – The whole Exodus story of rescue from Egypt.
- 16-22 – He brought them through the desert and settled them in the promised land.
- 23-26 – Summary verses. He remember them in their humiliation and delivered them from all their enemies. He provides food for all. So give thanks to Him.

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