

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS
TO JERUSALEM

Part 5

"Psalm 124 & Jesus' Rejection at Nazareth"

9 February 2025

Introduction: *The Endurance of God's Peoples*

Throughout history, God's people (both Jews and Christians) have faced times where it appeared that they would be overcome by their enemies and destroyed. The fact that both the Jewish people and the Christian Church have endured is a testimony to God's protective care as well as to His sovereign plans for both peoples.

Key Point: As God's people, we will certainly face times of _____ from our enemies, but we can continue to serve Him in faith and with courage as we trust in His sovereign _____ for us.

Psalm 124

The Israelite and his companions give thanks to the Lord for His deliverance of them in the past and acknowledge His continual care and protection of them and their nation.

- **The pilgrim and his companions look to the Lord and acknowledge that their endurance as a people is solely because of the Lord's deliverance of them. (v. 1-5)**

Psa. 124:1-5—¹If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—²if it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us, ³then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; ⁴then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; ⁵then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⇒ The opening declarations emphasize the _____ of God's people being utterly destroyed.

"if it had not been the Lord who was on our side"

⇒ The psalmist then describes the nature of the _____ against them:

"people rose up against us"

⇒ Imagery of the destruction that can be caused by both _____ and _____ is employed.

"kindled"

"swept...away"

- **They offer their praise to the Lord for protecting them and for His sovereign enduring care for them. (v. 6-8)**

Psa. 124:6-8—⁶Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! ⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! ⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

⇒ Their worship is directed towards the Lord for His deliverance of them.

"Blessed be the Lord"

"This word carries the aspect of enrichment; praising as enriching the Lord would mean that the reputation of the Lord would be enriched, that through the praise the person and works of the Lord would be known in the world."

— Alan Ross

⇒ Two figures are used to describe the severity of what the Lord delivered them from:

(1) A Ravenous _____

"prey for their teeth"

(2) A _____ of Birds

"the snare of the fowler"

⇒ The psalm concludes with an acknowledgement of God's sovereign power as _____.
"Our help" "the name of the Lord"

Key Point: God's provision and protection of His people throughout history should fill us with confidence that His _____ for our lives cannot be thwarted by the _____ of our enemies.

Gospel Parallel: "Jesus' Rejection at Nazareth" — Luke 4:14-30

Background: Nazareth was the place of residence of Joseph and Mary. Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem and spent the early years of His life in Egypt, Nazareth was His hometown and where He would have spent the majority of his time prior to beginning His ministry.

1. **The account serves as the introduction to Jesus' public ministry in Luke's gospel.**

⇒ Reading from Isa. 61:1-2a was intended to frame up the nature of His ministry as _____.

2. **The account describes distinct responses to the message and to the man.**

(A) The people were ' _____ ' by His grace-filled words.

(B) They were _____ by His claim to be Messiah.

3. **Jesus gave two OT examples in order to illustrate both their spiritual condition and the full _____ of His mission as Messiah.**

(1) Elijah & the widow in Zarephath

(2) Elisha & Namaan the Syrian

4. **Although they determined to kill Him, He was _____ from their wrath and escaped.**

Key Point: The Lord's confidence in the face of opposition should encourage us that God will ultimately deliver us either _____ or _____ the attacks of our enemies in accordance with His will.

Concluding Thoughts

1. **Knowing Christ gives us confidence to face times of _____.**

John 16:33—I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2. **God's sovereignty over our lives means that we are _____ until He desires to bring us home.**

Psa. 91:14-15—¹⁴ "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

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⇒ The opening declarations emphasize the impossibility of God's people being utterly destroyed.

"if it had not been the Lord who was on our side"

⇒ The psalmist then describes the nature of the threat against them:

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⇒ Two figures are used to describe the severity of what the Lord delivered them from:

(1) A Ravenous Beast

"prey for their teeth"

(2) A Hunter of Birds

"the snare of the fowler"

⇒ The psalm concludes with an acknowledgement of God's sovereign power as **Creator**.

"Our help"

"the name of the Lord"

Key Point: God's provision and protection of His people throughout history should fill us with confidence that His will for our lives cannot be thwarted by the schemes of our enemies.

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