



The Journey to Jerusalem

Psalms 124-125

PSALM 124

Escape from Bondage

David thanks God, who has been Israel's help and deliverer from all its woes, and encourages a right relationship with him.

I. THE WORST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS (124:1-5):

“If the LORD had not been on our side—”

- A. The wicked would have swallowed Israel up (124:1-3).
- B. The waters would have engulfed Israel (124:4-5).

II. THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS (124:6-8):

“Our help is from the LORD.”

- A. They are not torn apart by their foes! (124:6) .
- B. They are delivered from their foes, as a bird escapes a hunter's trap (124:7-8).

PSALM 125

First Glimpse of the City

This psalm expresses confidence in the Lord's deliverance.

I. GOD'S DELIVERANCE (125:1-3)

- A. **The comparison** (125:1) : Those who trust in God are as secure as Mount Zion.
- B. **The conclusion** (125:2-3): As the mountains surround the city, so God surrounds the redeemed, keeping them from doing wrong.

II. THE PSALMIST'S REQUEST (125:4-5)

- A. **“O LORD, do good to those who are good”** (125:4) : God rewards those whose hearts are in tune with him.
- B. **“Banish those who turn to crooked ways, O LORD”** (125:5) : The evil are taken away.

Approaching the City

Psalms 126–131

In the next six psalms the pilgrims are within sight of the sacred mount.

PSALM 126

Joy and Repentance

The psalmist remembers God's great deliverance and prays it will continue until completion. He describes the nation Judah's emotion upon being released from a terrible captivity.

- I. **THE REALITY** (126:1) : At first the freed captives have difficulty comprehending the truth of this wonderful event.
- II. **THE REACTION** (126:2–3)
 - A. **Among the people** (126:2–3): They are filled with laughter and testify to God's faithfulness.
 - B. **Among the pagans** (126:2) : They acknowledge God's care and amazing things he does for his people.
- III. **THE REQUEST** (126:4–6)
 - A. **The petition** (126:4) : **“Restore our fortunes, LORD.”**
 - B. **The promise** (126:5–6): Those who plant in tears will harvest in joy.



PSALM 127

Family Strength

The psalmist reminds us that human care and toil in any area of life are of no value without God's blessings.

- I. **The Foundation for a Successful Family (127:1–2)**
 - A. **What is necessary** (127:1)
 1. The home must be built by the Lord (127:1) .
 2. The home must be protected by the Lord (127:1) .
 - B. **What is needless** (127:2) : The breadwinner need not burn the candle at both ends and be overly anxious, for God will supply rest and what we need.
- II. **THE FRUITS FROM A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY (127:3–5): Children**
 - A. **The parents will be honored** (127:3–4): Children are a reward and like sharp arrows.
 - B. **The parents will be helped** (127:5) : They will not be ashamed in front of their accusers.

The Outline Bible