



Lesson #5: God on Your Side (Psalm 124)

If you have followed our series through the Psalms of Ascent you probably have noticed three recurring themes in these psalms.

1. Many of the Psalms of Ascent talk about God's _____ on the journey.
2. Many of the Psalms of Ascent talk about the _____ that worshippers were subject to from the world.
3. Many of the Psalms of Ascent talk about the _____ in God.

Counting this one (Psalm 124), 4 out of the first 5 talk about persecution, or opposition, or danger. Psalm 124 is a psalm for the whole nation, it's a hymn of praise for deliverance from these dark times. The psalm really trumpets forth one central theme: **If God is on your side it makes all the _____ in the world!**

Psalm 124 invites us to use our imaginations and ask some "What if?" questions. There are only two points to this message because there is only two sides of this "What if?" issue.

124:1-5 – **God not on your side**

124:6-8 – **God on your side**

Either God is on your side or God is not on your side. There is no _____ option.

WHAT IF GOD IS NOT ON YOUR SIDE?

Instead of counting blessings the psalmist (in this case David) starts by thinking about all the bad things that *didn't* happen. Notice that the psalmist pleads with everyone to do this exercise ("Now may Israel say" v. 1).

- A. Without God on your side you will be _____ (v. 3)**
The first imagery used carried the idea of an attack by sheer malice. This is a human enemy attacking with the characteristics of a _____ animal. The psalmist is saying that without God on your side you are headed for a speedy destruction and will be _____.
- B. Without God on your side you will be _____ (v. 4-5)**
The psalmist's metaphors continue to demonstrate our hopeless situation apart from God. Like the first metaphor, this pictures sudden, catastrophic destruction by a massive force that the victim is _____ to resist.

- C. Without God on your side you will be a _____**
The first two metaphors used picture the powerful attacks around you that you simply cannot beat on your own.

1. **The wild-beast metaphor embodied the idea of raw _____**
2. **The flooding waters embodies the notion of raw _____**

To try and go up against these forces alone would result in total disaster.

WHAT IF GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE?

Here the psalmist moves from what might have happened to what actually did happen. God not only delivers you from _____ harms (v. 1-5) but He also delivers you from _____ harms (v. 6-8).

- A. God will _____ you (v. 6-7)**
The stress here is the enemies cunning. The enemy has sprung a _____. The imagery speaks of someone who lies in wait, renders his victim powerless by some artifice, and then unleashes an ambush. But our God has foiled the fowler! "*The snare is _____ and we have _____.*" The Lord has broken the snare of the fowler. We could never escape the trap on our own.
- B. God will _____ you (v. 8)**
"*Our help is in the name of the Lord*" and that trumps everything! This verse connects back to the opening verses of Psalm 121.
"*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my _____.* My _____ cometh from the Lord." (121:1-2)
Why have you escaped? It's not because of anything you did on your own. The psalmist is testifying that the Lord is the one who helped him when he was in trouble. The _____ of the whole psalm is found in verse 8. Yahweh is the one who commits himself to His people. There is nowhere outside His jurisdiction or beyond His sphere of influence. God is always there and always able to provide protection.

Concluding Thoughts

What if? When I look back, I see many placed in my life where it would have been disastrous if I'd had my own way. Without the grace of God surrounding me I would have fallen in all kinds of woes. But I have discovered that when I am on God's side there is _____ that can separate me from Him.

I love what the blind Fanny Crosby had to say about her life's journey:

"All the way my Savior leads me –
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?"

Are you on the Lord's side? There are only two sides to this issue. Either God is on your side or God is not on your side. There is no _____ option.

