

A Song of Protection

Songs For The Road - 2

Psalm 121 is the second of many songs (Psalms 120-134) that God's people sang as they made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem for one of the great worship festivals each year. As pilgrims traveling great distances--through lonely and often unfamiliar territory--had one, overwhelming need. They needed protection.

The hills--the "high places" where pagan religion was practiced--offered one source of security. The psalmist asks the rhetorical question, "Is that where my help comes from?" "No," he says, "I don't look to the hills for my help. My help comes from the Lord!" This song is a bold rejection of trusting in anything or anyone but the Lord for help (Jeremiah 3:21-23), and an expression of confidence in His watchful care (the word, "watch" occurs six times in this psalm).

LOOKING BACK:

We've all had our moments on the road that were less than pleasant, perhaps even life-threatening. Share such an experience.

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Psalm 121

- 1. What is the mood of the pilgrims as they begin their journey? What comfort or assurance do they receive for the journey (vss 3-8)?*
- 2. How have you experienced God's protection lately?*
- 3. The psalmist doesn't intend to promise a problem-free life for every believer. God's people travel the same ground that everyone else walks on. Instead, the psalmist repeatedly expresses his confidence that God's care is **continual**--He doesn't turn His head, even for a moment (unlike others--1 Kings 18:27)! *How is this confidence even more assuring than the promise of a problem-free life (also notice passages like Romans 8:28, 31-32, 37-39; 2 Tim. 4:18)?**
- 4. In what situations do you most vulnerable or anxious, needing to affirm your trust in the Lord, renouncing the temptation to look elsewhere for your security?*
- 5. How could the message of this psalm encourage you in your faith journey--right here-and-now, as well as in the future?*

*PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS*