



Our Traveling Companion

By Jeff Bedwell on May 16, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is one of the fifteen psalms known as the Songs of Ascents and was most likely used during pilgrimages on the way to Jerusalem. These songs were often recited or sung by the pilgrims as they traveled up the hills to Jerusalem for the annual festivals. The author of this psalm is unknown, but it is believed to be a psalm of trust and confidence in God, often recited by the Jewish people in times of trouble or uncertainty. The dominant theme of this psalm is protection under the watchful eye of God.

God is pictured as:

- A vigilant watchman (vv. 2-4)
- The shade at our right hand (vv. 5-6)
- Our keeper and protector in all circumstances (vv. 7-8)

This psalm is not a promise that we will not experience trials and troubles. In fact, Jesus told us quite the opposite, *"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"* (John 16:33, ESV). This psalm reminds us that we never travel alone.

As Eugene Peterson wrote in his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*:

The Christian life is not a quiet escape to a garden where we can walk and talk uninterruptedly with our Lord; nor a fantasy trip to a heavenly city where we can compare blue ribbons and gold medals with others who have made it to the winners' circle.... The Christian life is going to God. In going to God Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers, are citizens under the same governments, pay the same prices for groceries and gasoline, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground.

The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are ruled by God; and therefore no matter what doubts we endure or what accidents we experience, the Lord will preserve us from evil, he will keep our life.

Spend some time reflecting on God's presence, provision, and protection in your life. Whatever you are going through remind yourself that you never travel alone. Don't just look around at the circumstances, look above the circumstances to the One who will never leave you nor forsake you and is actively walking with you right now.

Prayer: Father, thank You that in Christ Jesus, nothing will ever separate me from You and Your love. Help me to draw strength and comfort from Your powerful, wise, and loving presence in my life.

TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 128

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