

Series: Journey: The Psalms of Ascent

Text: Psalm 124

Main Idea: God is trust worthy past, present, and future.

Hook: What if? Generally, not very helpful question...or is it?

Date: 6/25/22

Purpose: The author (David) calls the people of God to reflect on the question, "What if the Lord had not intervened?" He does so in order to drive them to hopeful worship as they are strengthened by what John Piper has called "future grace." Future grace is the conviction that God will be just as faithful to sustain us in the future as He has been in the past.

FCF: We are a forgetful people, we must remember whom we put our trust in is of immense importance and that history is heading somewhere.

COR: The enemies of God and by our association, our enemies surround us. Determining who or what is most trustworthy is the difference between life and death. We must ask the *what if* question and answer honestly where would be without the Lord on our side.

Christ Trajectory: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" Ps 124:8. "And there is salvation in no one else (Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which you must be saved." Acts 4:12

Apologetic: The problems and circumstances of our world surround us continually driving us to a place of hopelessness. We look for relief through the thoughts and ideas of finite human beings when we should cry out to the Creator of all things who has the ability to save us from despair, depression, disorientation and devastation.

Form: Deductive

Main Idea:

Subject: God is trustworthy and His intervention in our trials is to be praised.

Compliment: As we walk the Christian road, we can expect difficulties, enemies, hostility and even violence. We can expect to be hated by those who hate God. This psalm makes it abundantly clear that we will arrive having come through many toils and snares.

Exegetical Idea: In the psalm David is recounting the way God rescued Israel from danger. When they were sure to be overcome, God delivered them. When they couldn't save themselves, God saved them. This is our story too. We were born into a desperate situation – but God, through Christ, has made a way for us to be saved. And for those of us who have been rescued by Him this psalm should help us grow in praise, gratitude and trust in God.

Theological Idea: This psalm is a celebration of the Lord's protection and preservation because of His faithfulness. It is a psalm of hope for God's people in the midst of opposition.

Homiletical Idea: When faced with daunting circumstances put your trust in the name of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 124:1-8

Intro: Under most circumstances, the question "What if?", is not very helpful. We can't change the past and as they say hindsight is 20/20...(personal illustration). But sometimes the question is helpful...

I. A bold assertion (1-2)

- A. The bold assertion, simply put, is that Yahweh was on Israel's side.
- B. In our day this is a very controversial confession.
- C. God does indeed take sides. We would do well to insure we are on the right side.
- D. We will face challenges, see them as corporate (the corporate character of this Psalm).

Quote: "One person announces the theme, everyone joins in. God's help is not a private experience; it is a corporate reality—not an exception that occurs among isolated strangers, but the norm among the people of God." Eugene Peterson

II. A humble admission(3-5)

- A. David honestly and humbly acknowledges what would have happened if...
- B. Can we relate? To being overwhelmed from *despair, depression, disorientation and devastation.*
- C. Look to the dragon slayer.

III. A worthy (or blessed) acknowledgement (6-7)

- A. We bring great honor to God when we break forth in praise to Him.
- B. Don't forget our greatest deliverance (saved from God to God)

IV. A confident attitude (8)

- A. David ends the Psalm with a confident confession of faith.
- B. He declares that there is only one God and he is the one who created heaven and earth. Not a doctrine of secondary importance.
- C. We need trials to make such a hopeful confession (Prov.18:10)

Quote: “The revelation of God’s character is the foundation of our confidence” Charles Spurgeon

Conclusions:

Media

Slide #1—Psalm 124:1-8

Slide #2—vv. 1-2 [I. A bold assertion]

Slide #3—Peterson quote

Slide #4—vv. 3-5 [II. A humble admission]

Slide #5—vv.6-7 [III. A worthy (or blessed) acknowledgement]

Slide #6—vv.8 [IV. A confident attitude]

Slide #7—Spurgeon quote