

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Our Guardian God

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
July 2, 2023



- For many the great surprise of the Christian life is that we face such troubles.

Psalm 121:1-8 (NLT) A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

- ¹ I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there?
- ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
- ³ He will not let you stumble;
the one who watches over you will not slumber.
- ⁴ Indeed, he who watches over Israel
never slumbers or sleeps.
- ⁵ The Lord himself watches over you!
The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.
- ⁶ The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon at night.
- ⁷ The Lord keeps you from all harm
and watches over your life.
- ⁸ The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,
both now and forever.

- We can expect troubles on our journey of faith.

John 16:33 (NLT) "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

¹ Peter 5:8-9 (NLT) "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are."

- Who is with us on our journey?

- ¹ I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there?
- ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

Where are you looking for strength when troubles come?

"The promise of the psalm – and both Hebrews and Christians have always read it this way – is not that we shall never stub our toes but that no injury, no illness, no accident, no distress will have evil power over us, that is, will be able to separate us from God's purposes in us." Eugene Peterson A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

- God is our guardian, and He watches over us.

- ⁸ The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

⁵ The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

Romans 8:31-39

Psalm 121 (The Message) "I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains. ³⁻⁴ He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep. ⁵⁻⁶ God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you—Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke. ⁷⁻⁸ God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always."

Big Idea: God is your guardian so walk forward with confidence.

Lauren Daigle - Thank God I Do <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoEr8BSsrxg>



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Our Guardian God
#2 of 11 - July 2, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 120. Where have you said “no” to the world and yourself so you can say “yes” to God? How has the Lord been speaking to you this week? How were you able to apply this message?
- 2) Read Psalm 121. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What’s the theme of this chapter, or passage? What’s the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we journey with God?
- 5) Read John 16:33 & 1 Peter 5:8-9. What does this passage mean for us today?
- 6) Read Romans 8:31-39. What does this tell you about God’s commitment to you?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? In what ways do you need to trust that God is your guardian? What action step is God asking you to take today?



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