

PSALM 121:1-8

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;

From where shall my **help** come?

2My **help** [comes] from the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

3He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, He who *keeps* Israel

Will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is your keeper,

The LORD is your shade on your right hand.

6 The sun will not smite you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will *protect* you from all evil;

He will *keep* your soul.

8 The LORD will *quard* your going out and your coming in

From this time forth and forever.

Help ezer in Hebrew

Concrete sense to designate divine aid, both material and <u>spiritual</u> assistance.

Keep shāmar in Hebrew

To exercise great care over, do carefully, diligently, careful attention to covenants, laws, statutes; acting as a watchman

Who is my Helper and Keeper according to Ps 121?

- God Himself
- · Creator of heaven and earth
- Never caught off guard, doesn't fall asleep
- Keeps His Covenant with Israel
- Controls all events (not allow my foot to slip)
- He provides me shade in the heat of life
- He gives me eternal security (He keeps my soul)

Covenant Keeping God: He Keeps Israel

Ezek 37:4-6 Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put <u>breath in you that</u> <u>you may come alive</u>; and you will know that I am the LORD."

• During the Holocaust I would have thought that God had abandoned Israel, the Jews. But He has taken the dry bones of Ezekiel 37 and prepared the land for the rebirth of the nation after 3000 years.

Isa 66:8 "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? *Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?* As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

Yet May 14, 1948, in one day Israel was declared a nation. The UN acknowledged Israel a sovereign nation. Not since Solomon has there been one united Israel.

Israel is now very fruitful in the land. Their future is secured, even until and including the Millennial Kingdom. Amir Tsarfati video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU4N8zofCdQ&t=939s

Ezek 28:26

"They will live in it securely; and *they will build houses, plant vineyards and live securely* when I execute judgments upon all who scorn them round about them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."

Amos 9:13-15 God has now prepared the land for the Tribulation and Millennial Kingdom

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. "Also, I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live [in them;] They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. "I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them," says the LORD your God.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: If God did not keep His promise to Israel, we would have a difficult time believing He will keep His promises to us.

Protection in the Shade: The pillar of cloud. V 5-6

Shade: sel in Hebrew

Shadow conveys the ideas of shade, **protection**, and **defense**.

I've always thought it was just a pillar of cloud, like a tower, not one also spread out to cover them in the wilderness and protect them from the blistering sun in the desert. There is debate about this.

Psalm 105:39 He spread a cloud for a **covering**, and fire to illumine by night.

1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all **under the cloud** and all passed through the sea;

Exodus 14:13-14 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. **"The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."**

Ex. 14:19-20 The **angel of God**, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and **the pillar of cloud** moved from before them and stood behind them. So it **came between** the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. *Thus, the one did not come near the other all night*.

So what? How do we look to the Mountain?

Psalm 3:3-4 But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and **the One who lifts my head**. I was **crying to the LORD** with my voice, And He answered me **from His holy mountain**.

Three Chapters in John

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many **dwelling places**; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **Mansions (Gr: meno)** in KJV and others. *Meno* is Greek for *ABIDE*.

John 14:26 "But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** will teach you all things, and *bring to your remembrance* all that I said to you. (What you put in God is responsible to bring out.)

Luke 11:10-13 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? "Or [if] he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

John 15:7-11 "If you <u>abide</u> in Me, and My words <u>abide</u> in you, <u>ask whatever you wish</u>, and it will be done for you. "My Father is **glorified** by this, that you bear much fruit, and [so] prove to be My disciples. "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; <u>abide</u> in My love. "*If you keep My commandments*, you will <u>abide</u> in My love; *just as I have kept My Father's commandments* and <u>abide</u> in His love. "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and [that] your joy may be made full.

John 15:26 "When the **Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, [that is] the **Spirit** of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He** will testify about Me,

John 16:7-11,13, 23, 33 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ... "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

1 John 4:4-7, 12-13, 15-19 You are from God, little children, and have **overcome** them; because greater is **He** who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak [as] from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ... No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God <u>abides</u> in us, and His love is <u>perfected</u> (perfect passive —to complete) in us. By this we know that we <u>abide</u> in Him and He in us, because He has given us of **His Spirit**. ... Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God <u>abides</u> in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who <u>abides</u> in love <u>abides</u> in God, and God <u>abides</u> in him. By this, love is <u>perfected</u> with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

1 Pet 5:6-10

Therefore, **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **casting all your anxiety** on Him, because He cares for you. **Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert.** Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But **resist him, firm** in [your] faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen [and] establish you.

How do we resist the enemy? Obedience in thought and deed. How do we take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ?

2 Cor 10:5 [We are] **destroying** (absolutely destroy as a habit of life) speculations and <u>every</u> lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking <u>every</u> thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Do I excuse being judgmental, or jealous, envious, other internal sins? How do we actively battle these internal sins? First, we need to recognize these thoughts are not from God. Secondly, we need a check-up with God. "Are we OK, Lord?" Then be quiet and listen for His voice, submit yourself when you study His word. Confess and repent anything He brings to you that needs attention. This routine may happen multiple times a day! Part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to empower you to recognize your own sin and to abide in Him.

Grieve: Sins of *commission***,** doing things we are told not to do.

Eph 4:30 Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Read this chapter and Col 3 for sin lists, we all sin like this)

Isa 63:10 But they rebelled and **grieved** His Holy Spirit; therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

Acts 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always **resisting the Holy Spirit**; you are doing just as your fathers did.

Some internal sins can be sneaky or "justifiable"

Eph 4:31-32 Division (and gossip!) vs. Kindness and love when offended.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, *forgiving* each other, **just as** God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Heb 12:14-15 Pursue peace with all men, and the *sanctification* (set apart for a holy purpose) without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that **no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble**, **and by it many be defiled**;

Quench: The same word is also used of **resisting the gifts** of the Holy Spirit. Sins of *omission*. Not doing the things we are told to do.

1Thes 5:14-22 Notice the do's and don'ts of this passage. One sentence in Greek.

We urge you, brethren, **admonish** the unruly, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, **be patient** with everyone. See that **no one repays another with evil for evil**, but always **seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice** always; **pray** without ceasing; **in everything give thanks**; *for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*. **Do not quench the Spirit**; **do not despise prophetic utterances**. But **examine everything** [carefully;] **hold fast** to that which is good; **abstain** from every form of evil. (Check those sneaky thoughts!)

Gal 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we **live** by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will *abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*.

Really good study on quenching the Holy Spirit. http://www.doctrinalstudies.com/pdf/D101123.pdf