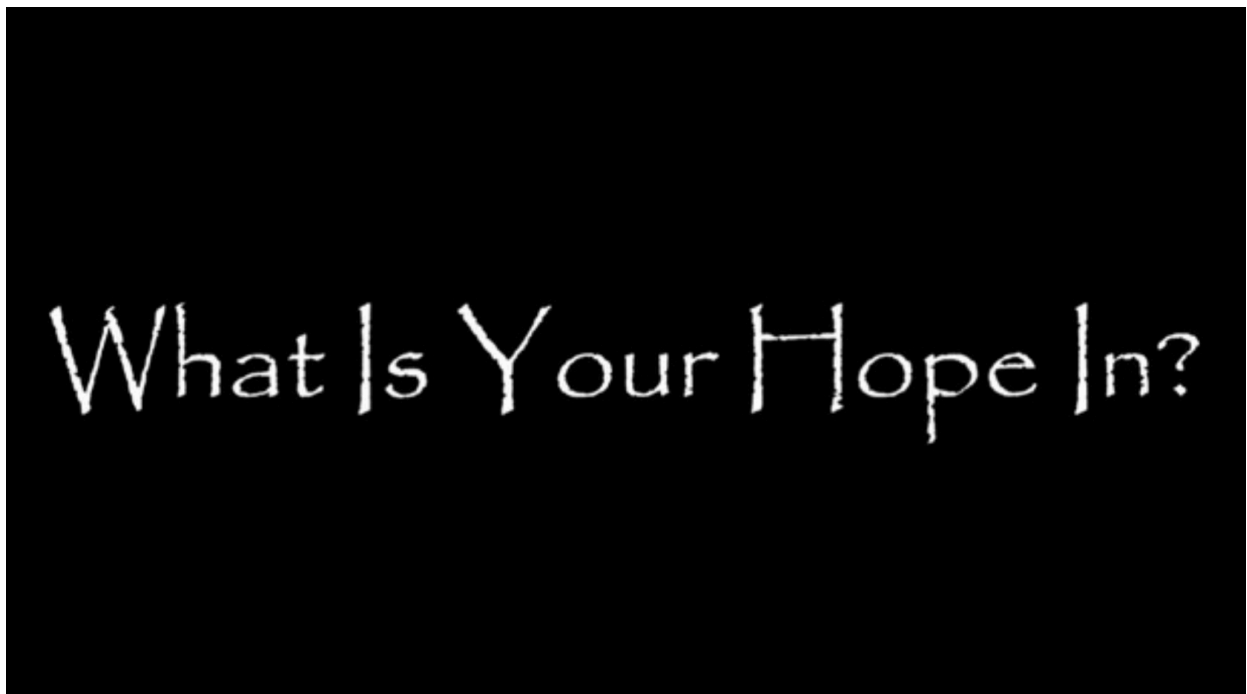


Good Morning Arising Church! Man it is a blessing to be in the house of the Lord with the people of the Lord. You all are our family and there is nothing like being in the great assembly.

Have you guys been abounding in hope recently? We just received two powerful messages reminding us of the hope that is the anchor for our soul.



From, "what is your hope in?" we learned the difference between true hope, and expectation. How our expectations can become an idolatry of circumstance. Yet our hope can become imperishable and immovable when it is focused on Gods redemptive acts being displayed in our life.

This was followed up with the message, "the hope of Israel"



In this message we learned that we can look forward to a restored kingdom of Israel on the earth. But before that happens, things are going to get difficult, restoration might even look impossible. But we are to remind each other, and the people of Israel, of this very hope.

- **Luke 21:27–28 (ESV)**

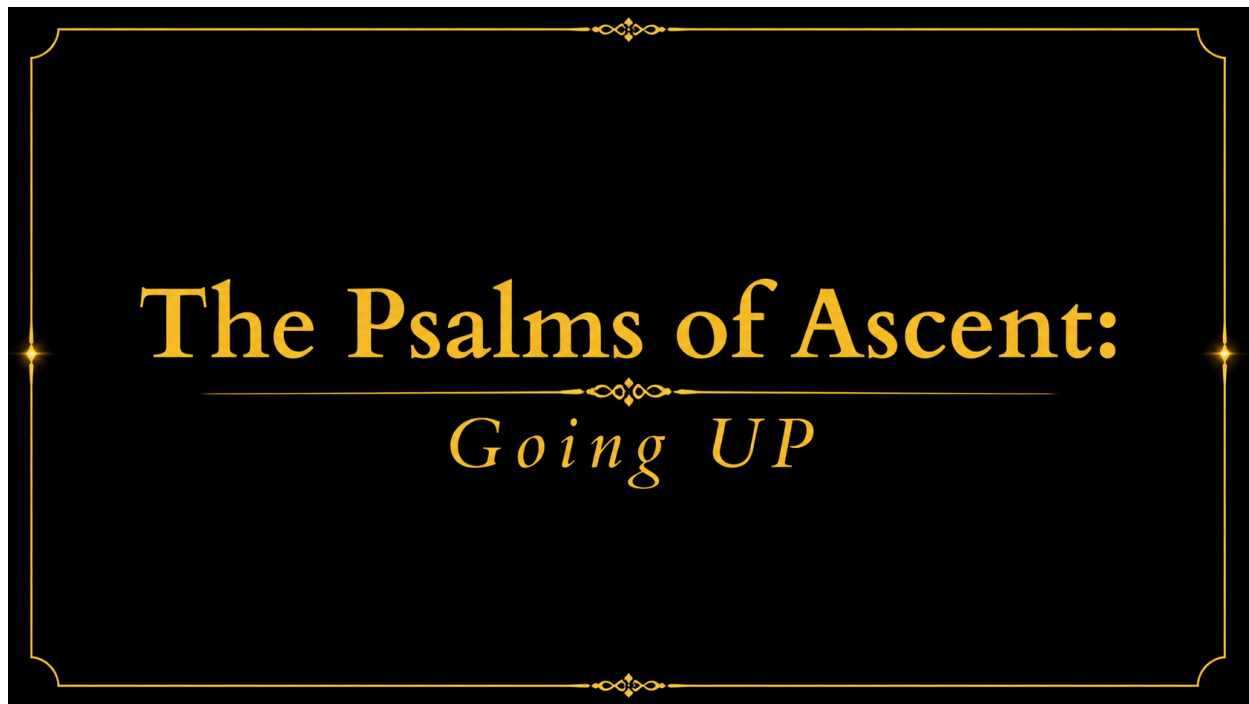
27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, **straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**”

We are being prepared as a body to stand for the promises of Israel here and now. And just yesterday we had the opportunity to do that at the Israel Q&A!

The Lord is giving us chances to take bold stands in our advocacy for Israel and for God's fulfilment of His promises for them. We got a

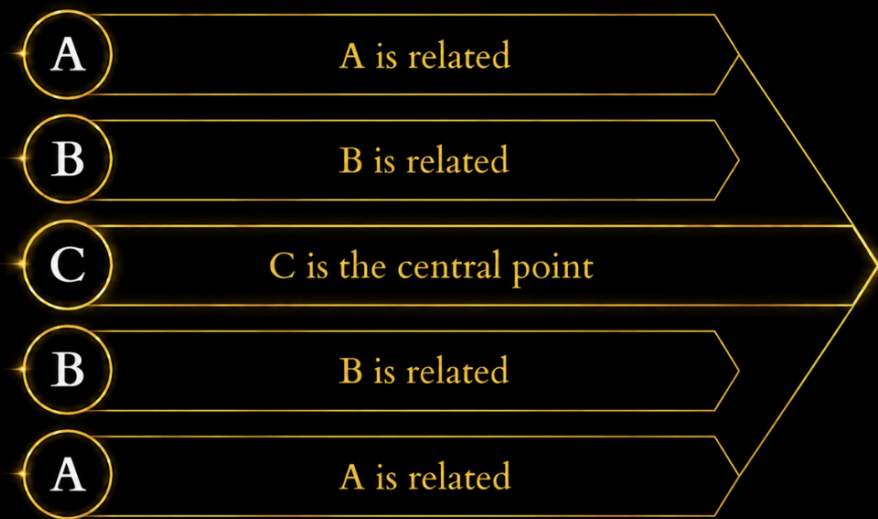
chance to layout some clear scriptural passages to a handful of people from all different backgrounds and walks of life yesterday. We taught about the role that Gentiles have in helping bring about God's plan for Israel and the discussions were lively and the Lord was with us. Lord willing we will do more of these and continue to take advantage of the opportunity to eradicate ignorance and raise up quality Gentiles.

And today we have an incredible word for you all. Can we get our title slide?



In your Bible there is a literary device known as a chiasm that's used to emphasize certain points and it works something like this:

How a Chiasm Works



Let's say you have 5 lines of a passage. The top and bottom point would be related seen here as A, the next line from the top and bottom, seen here as B would be related with the middle point, C, being the central point of the passage. This works different than a linear style where everything is a lead up to the main point at the end.

Psalms 120-134 in your Bible are known as the songs or Psalms of Ascent.

Many scholars identify the fifteen Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120–134) as the pilgrim songs of Israel, sung on their journey to Jerusalem for the three great feasts. At the top of each psalm in your Bible, in Hebrew, each is titled *Shir HaMa'alot* — a song of the *ma'alot*, from the root verb *alah*, meaning to go up, to ascend, to climb. This is the same root as *aliyah*, the word still used today when a Jewish person immigrates to Israel — no matter where in the world they come from, they are always

said to be "going up." What's remarkable is that this language of ascent runs throughout all of Scripture, and it clearly transcends geography. The Psalmist asks in Psalm 24:3, *"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who can stand in his holy place?"* — drawing near to God is always upward movement and there is also clearly a reference to a ascending that takes place spiritually. In Matthew 20:17–18, Jesus tells his disciples, *"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem"*.

Our whole lives we have naturally been reading the Psalms of Ascent in linear fashion and they are of course a blessing, but as we have been studying the Psalms of Ascent lately, we have been blessed to look at them as a chiasmic structure. We want to share that treasure with you.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 120

- 1 I call on the LORD in my distress,
and he answers me.
- 2 Save me, O LORD, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.
- 3 What will he do to you,
and what more besides, O deceitful tongue?
- 4 He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows,
with burning coals of the broom tree.
- 5 Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech,
that I live among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 Too long have I lived
among those who hate peace.
- 7 I am a man of peace;
but when I speak, they are for war.

- **Psalm 120**

- 1 I call on the Lord in my distress,
and he answers me.
- 2 Save me, O Lord, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.

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and what more besides, O deceitful tongue?
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that I live among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 Too long have I lived
among those who hate peace.
- 7 I am a man of peace;
but when I speak, they are for war.

Going up to the house of the Lord starts by recognizing you are not where you want to be. A holy dissatisfaction.

- Lying lips, deceitful tongues
- Living in Meshek, Kedar
- Those who hate peace, are for war.

Application for us: lies we tell ourselves. War between flesh and Spirit.
(physical/literal as well)

Every journey up to the Lord begins with a recognition, and a crying out to the Lord.

Psalm 134

A song of ascents.

- 1 Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord
who minister by night in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the Lord.
- 3 May the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

- **Psalm 134**

A song of ascents.

- 1 Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord
who minister by night in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the Lord.
- 3 May the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

What a contrast from Psalm 120. Here the Psalmist is not surrounded by people for war, but by priests. Not by lying lips, but lips that praise of the Lord.

Psalm 134 is describing where you want to be. In the house of the Lord with the servants of the Lord. And they are saying BLESS YOU. There is overflowing blessing that is coming from Zion.

"RECOGNITION"			
<p>THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p>Psalm 120 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. 2 Save me, Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues. 3 What will he do to you? What more will he do? 4 He will sharpen the arrows of the warrior, he will aim their flaming arrows. 5 Woe to me that I am a foreigner among them, that I am a foreigner among them! 6 I have lived among Meshechites too long, I dwell among the tents of Kedar. 	<p>← WHERE YOU ARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DISTRESSED -CRYING OUT TO THE LORD -SURROUNDED BY LIES/WAR -WANTING PEACE -DWELLING FAR AWAY <p>WHERE YOU WANT TO BE →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -IN THE HOUSE OF GOD -SURROUNDED BY MINISTERS/SERVANTS -PRAISING THE LORD -OVERFLOWING WITH BLESSING 	<p>THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p>Psalm 134 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you who minister in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. 2 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for he is gracious. 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. 4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. 5 Praise the Lord. 	

Connection: If Psalm 120 where I am (needs to change) then Psalm 134 is where I want to be. This shapes the journey we are on. We need to start with recognition that a change needs to be made, and end up with overflowing blessing from being with the Lord and his people.

SO, lets go on this journey through the songs of ascents and go up to the house of the Lord and learn how to get to the place we want to be.

Psalm 121

A song of ascents.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?</p> <p>2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.</p> <p>3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;</p> <p>4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.</p> | <p>5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;</p> <p>6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.</p> <p>7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;</p> <p>8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.</p> |
|--|---|

- **Psalm 121**

A song of ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

In Psalm 121 we see the Psalmist recognizing where his help DOES come from. Remember, in Psalm 120 he recognized he needs help, now he has the proper recognition of where this help comes from!

This is so essential. So often we do recognize we need help, we need a change, and we look to false hope.

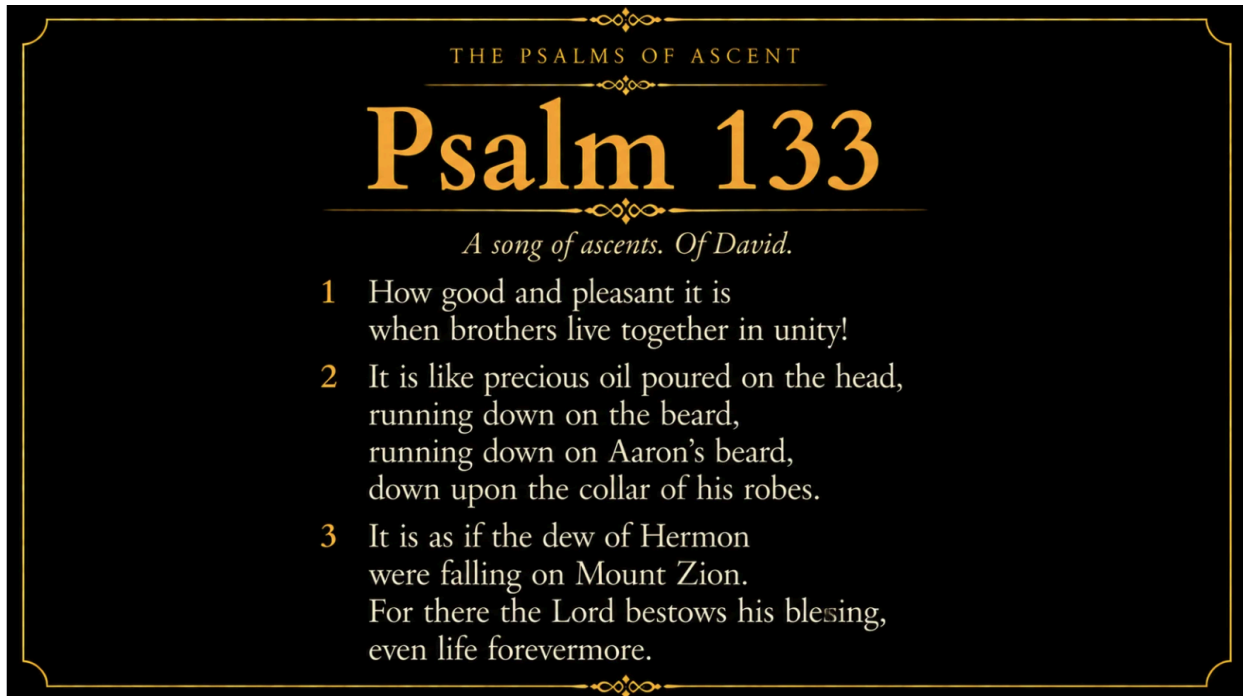
- Self reliance
- Sinful satisfaction (that is temporary)
- Try to have both help from the Lord and worldly help.

We must have the proper recognition of salvation and protection. I mean, what can he do? Think about this for a minute.

- He is the maker of heaven and earth
- He has watched over Israel for Millenia, and sustained them through hatred, torture, exile and exclusion.
 - Holocaust
 - All of the rockets he's stopped
 - All of the kingdoms he has toppled to protect them.

THAT SAME GOD IS WATCHING OVER YOU. What can he do?

And notice verse 5. The Lord is your shade at your right hand. He is not far off, he is very close. And he is looking for us to cry out to him for help. To depend on him completely, and he is ready to save.



THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 133

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 How good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity!
- 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down upon the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

- **Psalm 133**

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 How good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity!
- 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head,
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were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

In Psalm 121 we learned God is our help. And when we connect it with psalm 133 we see the lifesaving truth that brothers are our help. When we go up to the house of the Lord it cannot be alone.

We want to present 2 essential helps we see in Psalm 133

1. Brotherhood

1. There is nothing like Gods people dwelling in unity. How many times has a brother picked you up? Has a brothers words been what sustained you? There is true anointing when brothers live in unity with each other.

2. Priesthood

1. In addition to the fact that the author David is the only king we could find who actually had two high priests serving together at the same time, Notice that David harkens back to Aaron. Why?
2. Well you all are familiar with the book of Exodus after our foundations study. What was the broad context of Aaron being appointed as the high priest? They were just delivered from Egypt! Aaron was appointed to the people as a GIFT numbers 18:5-7 says.
3. Think of how much of a gift priesthood is. If you've just been delivered and led into a wilderness, wouldn't you need direction?

Brotherhood and leadership is meant to aid you on the journey up to the house of the Lord. And it is aimed at giving LIFE

Anointing

1. When Gods people dwell in unity, under the leadership of a priest, it is like the dew or snow of Hermon.
2. This snow would melt and run down and water the whole land. It was life giving and essential!
3. We should see the brotherhood and leadership in our lives as the same way. Essential like water. Meant to produce growth and make things flourish!

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT
Psalm 121
A song of ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you
will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at
your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
- 8 the Lord will watch over your coming
and going both now and forevermore.

“ESSENTIAL HELP”

HELP COMES FROM THE LORD

- THE MAKER OF HEAVEN & EARTH
- THE PROTECTOR OF ISRAEL
- THE SHADE AT YOUR RIGHT HAND

HELP FROM BROTHERS/LEADERS

- LIKE THE ANOINTING OF AARON
- AS ESSENTIAL AS THE DEW OF HERMON

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT
Psalm 133
A song of ascents.

- 1 How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together
in unity!
- 2 It is like precious oil
poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar
of his robe.
- 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows
his blessing,
even life forevermore.

Connection:

So we have recognition we are not where we want to be, that leads to crying out for help from God and his people. We need to the essential

help and that comes from God AND the essential help that comes from brotherhood and priesthood.

You cannot have one without the other. You NEED the help that comes from both! This is right order that leads us in the right direction: To the house of the Lord.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 122

A song of ascents. Of David.

1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”	6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.
2 Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.	7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”
3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.	8 For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”
4 That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.	9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.
5 There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David.	

- **Psalm 122**

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
- 2 Our feet are standing
in your gates, O Jerusalem.

- 3** Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
- 4** That is where the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord
according to the statute given to Israel.
- 5** There the thrones for judgment stand,
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May those who love you be secure.
- 7** May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”
- 8** For the sake of my brothers and friends,
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- 9** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

Notice the anticipation in this passage. They are just looking forward to going to the same place *together!* And what is this place? Well, Jerusalem is the place that God dwells.

Their aim as they journey is delighting in the place that God dwells. Meditating on it. Delighting in it. Anticipating the nearness of God.

Also notice verse 5, it can seem strange at first. There stand the thrones for judgment? This may seem contradictory to us at first, but lets examine a few passages to gain insight.

- **1 Kings 10:3-9 NIV**

3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed. 6 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. 8 **How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!** 9 Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

Notice how the Queen of Sheba went up to Jerusalem to simply listen to Solomons wisdom! It says how happy men are to listen to you. Solomons judgments and wisdom lead to happiness.

Also listen to Psalm 97

- **Psalm 97:8**

Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, Lord.

Gods righteous decrees bring Joy to the people. I mean what could be better than living under Gods righteous standard that bring true peace and prosperity?

For us it is not just a physical going up like physically coming to this church building this morning, but an internal going up. And we must have a rising excitement to be near the Lord. To hear his judgements in our lives.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 132

A song of ascents.

<p>1 O Lord, remember David and all the hardships he endured.</p> <p>2 He swore an oath to the Lord and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:</p> <p>3 "I will not enter my house or go to my bed—</p> <p>4 I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids,</p> <p>5 till I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."</p> <p>6 We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:</p> <p>7 "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool—</p> <p>8 arise, O Lord, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.</p> <p>9 May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy."</p>	<p>10 For the sake of David your servant, do not reject your anointed one.</p> <p>11 The Lord swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne—</p> <p>12 if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever."</p>	<p>13 For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling;</p> <p>14 "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it—</p> <p>15 I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food.</p> <p>16 I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy.</p> <p>17 "Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one.</p> <p>18 I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent."</p>
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- **Psalm 132**

A song of ascents.

1 O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured.

2 He swore an oath to the Lord
and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

3 “I will not enter my house
or go to my bed—

4 I will allow no sleep to my eyes,
no slumber to my eyelids,

5 till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

6 We heard it in Ephrathah,
we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:

7 “Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool—

8 arise, O Lord, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

9 May your priests be clothed with righteousness;
may your saints sing for joy.”

10 For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your anointed one.

11 The Lord swore an oath to David,
a sure oath that he will not revoke:

“One of your own descendants

I will place on your throne—
12 if your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons will sit
on your throne for ever and ever.”

13 For the Lord has chosen Zion,
he has desired it for his dwelling:

14 “This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it—

15 I will bless her with abundant provisions;
her poor will I satisfy with food.

16 I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and her saints will ever sing for joy.

17 “Here I will make a horn grow for David
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.

18 I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but the crown on his head will be resplendent.”

In the longest Psalm in the psalm of ascents we see the overwhelming theme of dwelling with God and being near him!

- David says I will not rest until I build him a house

And what is amazing, is that God turns to David and says I will build YOU a house. And I will allow your Son to build me a house that I DESIRE to well.

We cannot help but hear the Davidic Covenant captured in 2 Samuel 7 here.

This is an amazing revelation. As we desire to be near him and move toward Him, he reciprocates that desire and moves toward us!

And dwelling with God overflows with blessing!

- Blessed with abundant provisions
- Satisfied
- Priests with salvation
- People sing for Joy
- Enemies closed with shame
- A crown that will be resplendent!

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 122
A song of ascents.

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- 2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted.
- 4 For there the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 There thrones for judgment are set, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.
- 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.
- 8 For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 132
A song of ascents.

- 1 O Lord, remember David and all the hardships he endured when he swore an oath to the Lord and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- 2 "I will not enter my house or go to my bed;
- 3 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids
- 4 until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 5 We heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar:
- 6 Let us go to his dwelling place; let us bow down at his footstool."
- 7 Arise, O Lord, and come to your dwelling place, you and the ark of your might."
- 8 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, let your faithful people sing for joy, do not turn away the face of your anointed."
- 9 The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne."
- 10 If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also will sit on your throne forevermore."
- 11 For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling:
- 12 "This is my resting place forever; here will I dwell, for I have desired it."
- 13 I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 14 Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her faithful ones will shout for joy.
- 15 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 16 I will clothe his enemies with shame, but on him his crown will shine."

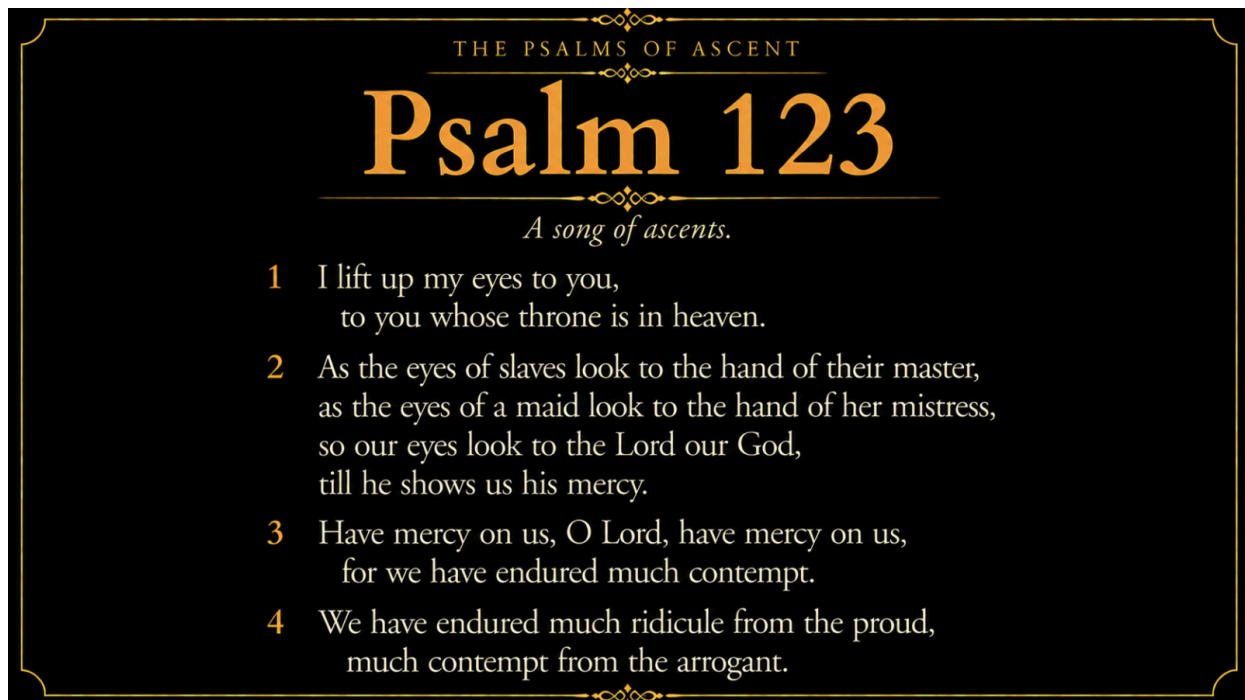
"DESIRE FOR NEARNESS"

- REJOICING TO GO
- TO BE CLOSE TO GOD & HIS PEOPLE
- DELIGHTING IN HIS JUDGMENTS
- THERE IS PEACE & SECURITY
- THE LORD RECIPROCATES DESIRE TO DWELL
- BLESSINGS RESULT FROM NEARNESS
- THE LORD'S JUDGMENT BRINGS LIFE

Connection:

As we journey to the house of the Lord we should be filled with excitement to be in the place that God dwells.

When we recognize we are not where we want to be, and that God and the brothers are our help, it moves us to be as near as possible to him!
And he is moved to be near us!



- **Psalm 123**

A song of ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to you,
to you whose throne is in heaven.
- 2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,

till he shows us his mercy.

3 Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us,
for we have endured much contempt.

4 We have endured much ridicule from the proud,
much contempt from the arrogant.

In psalm 123 there is a recognition of dependency on God. A crying out for mercy from on high, because they are enduring ridicule and contempt from the proud.

We all can resonate with this. "But what about all the things people have done to me?" Trying to go up to the house of the Lord but being filled with anxiety and worry.

- We need true humility. We need to recognize the prideful parts of our own life. That the things that frustrate us about others, are in us. And cry out for mercy.

Psalm 131

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 My heart is not proud, O Lord,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
- 2 But I have stilled and quieted my soul;
like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
- 3 O Israel, put your hope in the Lord
both now and forevermore.

- **Psalm 131**

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 My heart is not proud, O Lord,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
- 2 But I have stilled and quieted my soul;
like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
- 3 O Israel, put your hope in the Lord
both now and forevermore.

Notice Psalm 131 starts out with "my heart is not proud." When we humble ourselves and ask for mercy our soul is put at ease. When we

let go of things that are too wonderful for us, things God has not revealed to us yet, there is a peace that surpasses understanding we can have. And he compares it to a weaned child with it's mother. Before a child is weaned, it cries and screams when it is hungry and in need, once it has been weaned, the child needs only to ask.

This child-like trust in us produces a settled heart. And the Psalm ends by saying put your hope in the Lord. As expectations, worries, and pride are put to death, we can have a sure hope that is an anchor for our soul. And a heart that is settled before God.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 123

A song of ascents.

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,
you who sit enthroned in heaven.
- 2 As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a servant girl
look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
- 3 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy
on us,
for we have endured
much contempt.
- 4 We have endured
much ridicule from the arrogant,
much contempt from the proud.

“TRUST”

←

-LOOKING TO THE LORD FOR MERCY
-FROM THE ARROGANT & PROUD
-AS A SERVANT TO THEIR MASTER

→

-MY HEART IS NOT PROUD/HAUGHTY
-MY SOUL IS QUIETED
-AS A WEANED CHILD W/ ITS MOTHER
-PUT YOUR HOPE IN THE LORD

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 131

A song of ascents.

- 1 Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor are my eyes haughty;
I do not concern myself
with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
- 2 But I have stilled and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
- 3 Israel, put your hope in the Lord
both now and forevermore.

Connection:

No pride can be in us as we journey up to the house of the Lord. But as we humble ourselves to receive mercy, God will make our souls stilled

and quieted. And we can abound in hope in the God of Israel knowing that He knows what we need, we need only ask.

From recognition comes essential help, which drives us to nearness, and as we get close, our pride is crushed, and overwhelming trust rises up. Our fears, pride, and worries are put to death. The journey secures and settles our restless hearts.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 124

A song of ascents. Of David.

1 If the Lord had not been on our side— let Israel say—	6 Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
2 if the Lord had not been on our side when men attacked us,	7 We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.
3 when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive;	8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
4 the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,	
5 the raging waters would have swept us away.	

- **Psalm 124**

A song of ascents. Of David.

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when men attacked us,
3 when their anger flared against us,
they would have swallowed us alive;
4 the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
5 the raging waters
would have swept us away.

6 Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
7 We have escaped like a bird
out of the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Notice in this psalm there is a rejoicing that God has rescued them time and again. The Psalmist is praising God for rescuing them from external threats.

- Swallowed alive
- Raging waters
- Torn by teeth
- The fowlers snare

As we journey up to the house of the Lord, we must remember all that he has done. The Lord has delivered us time and again from threats. The fact that we have breath in our lungs today is a gift from the Lord.

Psalm 130

A song of ascents.

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;</p> <p>2 O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.</p> <p>3 If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?</p> <p>4 But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.</p> | <p>5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.</p> <p>6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.</p> <p>7 O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.</p> <p>8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.</p> |
|---|--|

- **Psalm 130**

A song of ascents.

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2 O Lord, hear my voice.

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more than watchmen wait for the morning,
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7 O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

If Psalm 124 is proclaiming God's deliverance from external threat, Psalm 130 is concerning the greater internal threats.

If God kept a record of your sin, who could stand? No one...But praise God for repentance and forgiveness.

And notice that verse 6 says a phrase twice, emphasizing importance. Think about what a watchmen does, and why they would be waiting so much for the morning. And he says more than this my soul is waiting for the Lord.

For us, more than external threats, we must be looking for this relief and deliverance from the internal threat of sin. We must recognize how much our soul needs a deliverer. How deadly sin is, and having a vigilance for it. Waiting on the Lord to fully deliver us with all of our strength.

As the psalmist does this, he receives a revelation of messiah. Verse 8 says "he himself will redeem Israel from all their sin."

- He being Messiah.
- Messiah is the one to bring full redemption and we must eagerly await and long for his deliverance.

<p>THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p>Psalm 124 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 If the Lord had not been on our side—let Israel say— 2 if the Lord had not been on our side when men attacked us, 3 when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive; 4 the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, 5 the raging waters would have swept us away. 6 Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. 7 We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 	<p>“DELIVERANCE”</p> <p>← EXTERNAL DELIVERANCE</p> <p>-SWALLOWED ALIVE -TORN BY TEETH -FOWLER'S SNARE -RAGING WATERS</p> <p>INTERNAL DELIVERANCE →</p> <p>-W/O FORGIVENESS, CANNOT STAND -INTERNAL THREAT > EXTERNAL THREAT -HE HIMSELF WILL REDEEM</p>	<p>THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p>Psalm 130 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; 2 Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. 3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. 5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. 6 I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. 7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.
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Connection:

Both of these psalms point out Gods deliverance, from both external, and internal enemies. Remembering how God has delivered us in the past, and emphasizing the longing for full deliverance, for full restoration.

God has physically delivered you more than you know, and your eyes and mind may often be focused on making sure that others don't hurt you, but it is God's deliverance of the threat of sin that truly saves your

soul, He has delivered you, He is delivering you, and He will deliver you again.

The journey that started with recognition, drove us to essential help, nearness with God, securing trust, and leads to ultimate deliverance from the Lord!

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 125

A song of ascents.

① Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

② As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and forevermore.

③ The scepter of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,
for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

④ Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

⑤ But those who turn to crooked ways
the Lord will banish with the evildoers.

*Peace be
upon Israel.*

- **Psalm 125**

A song of ascents.

- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
- 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people

both now and forevermore.

3 The scepter of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,
for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

5 But those who turn to crooked ways
the Lord will banish with the evildoers.
Peace be upon Israel.

The imagery in this psalm is incredible and notice the confidence that comes over the psalmist.

- Safety,
- Unable to be shaken
- God like mountains around us.

Once we deal with sin and encounter Gods deliverance, we gain a supernatural, godly confidence because the Lord is with us.

The psalmist declares that wickedness WILL be removed from the land.
That the scepter of the wicked WILL NOT remain.

He knows their end. He knows they will not rule over him. He is safe, surrounded by God like mountains, and walking up toward the house of God with confidence.

Psalm 129

A song of ascents.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 They have greatly oppressed me from my youth—
let Israel say—</p> <p>2 they have greatly oppressed me from my youth,
but they have not gained the victory over me.</p> <p>3 Plowmen have plowed my back
and made their furrows long.</p> <p>4 But the Lord is righteous;
he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.</p> | <p>5 May all who hate Zion
be turned back in shame.</p> <p>6 May they be like grass on the roof,
which withers before it can grow;</p> <p>7 with it the reaper cannot fill his hands,
nor the one who gathers fill his arms.</p> <p>8 May those who pass by not say,
“The blessing of the Lord be upon you;
we bless you in the name of the Lord.”</p> |
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7 with it the reaper cannot fill his hands,
 nor the one who gathers fill his arms.
8 May those who pass by not say,
 “The blessing of the Lord be upon you;
 we bless you in the name of the Lord.”

Again in Psalm 129 its like he is saying, yeah enemy you can do your worst, but nothing will move me. I have been oppressed, but the Lord has freed me. There is security established in the heart of the man who is going up.

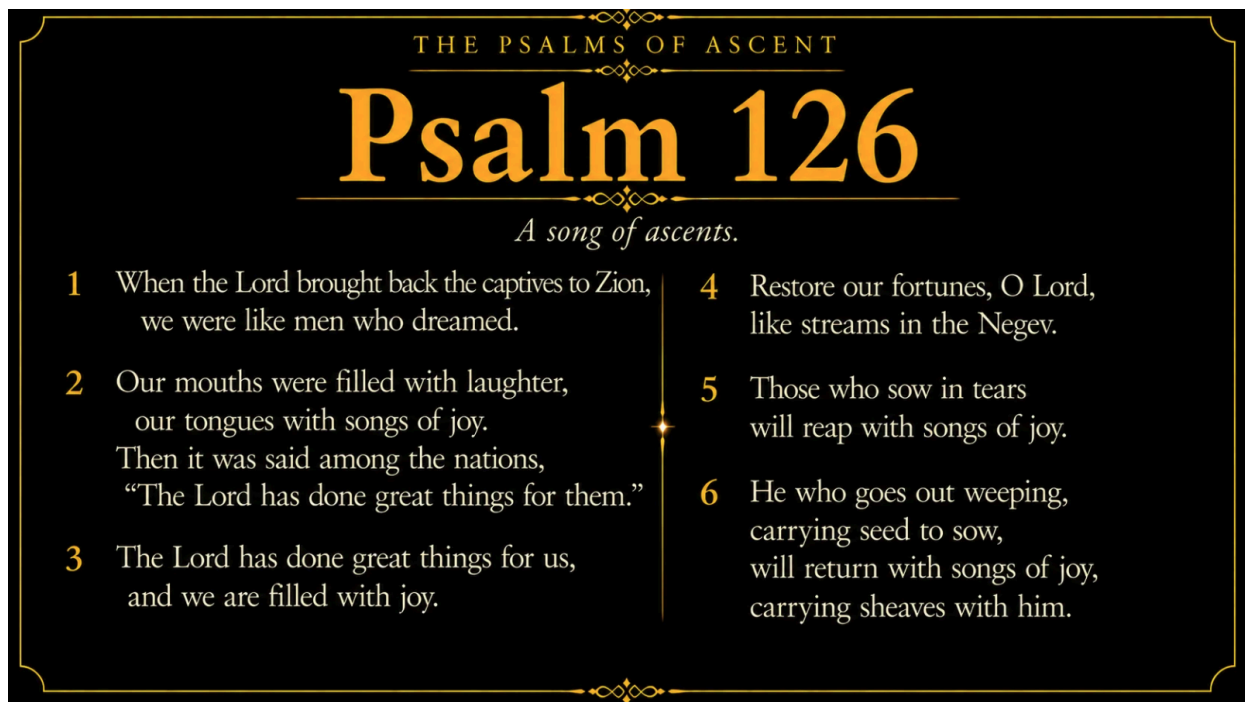
THE PSALMS OF ASCENT		“SECURITY”		THE PSALMS OF ASCENT	
Psalm 125 <i>A song of ascents.</i>				Psalm 129 <i>A song of ascents.</i>	
1	Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.		-THOSE WHO TRUST ARE AS MT. ZION -THE LORD SURROUNDS THEM -THE WICKED WILL NOT REMAIN	1	“They have greatly afflicted me from my youth, let Israel now say—
2	As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.			2	“They have greatly afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.”
3	The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil.			3	The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long.
4	Do good, Lord, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart.			4	The Lord is righteous; he has cut apart the cords of the wicked.
5	But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel.		-THOSE WHO HATE ZION ARE LIKE GRASS -THE WICKED DO NOT PREVAIL -THE LORD’S BLESSING IS NOT ON THEM	5	May all who hate Zion be turned back in shame.
				6	May they be like grass on the roof, which withers before it grows, with which the reaper does not fill his hand or the binder of sheaves his arm,
				7	nor do those who pass by say, “The blessing of the Lord be on you; we bless you in the name of the Lord.”

Connection

He rightly discerns the fate of the righteous vs the fate of the wicked. The man sees clearly now. He knows the righteous will prosper and be

protected, and that wickedness will not remain, and the wicked will wither like grass. If you gain this perspective in life it is one of the most securing things!

The journey that started with recognition, drove us to essential help, nearness with God, securing trust, ultimate deliverance and now a security. We rightly discern the prospect of the righteous, and the prospect of the wicked. We know our end, and are secured.



THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 126

A song of ascents.

<p>1 When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed.</p> <p>2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."</p> <p>3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.</p>	<p>4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.</p> <p>5 Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.</p> <p>6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.</p>
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- 2** Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
- 3** The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.
- 4** Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
- 5** Those who sow in tears
will reap with songs of joy.
- 6** He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him.

As we move onto the final two psalms before the central point of the chiasm, we see another incredible aspect in the man who is going up to the house of the Lord.

As we think about those who sow in tears will reap a harvest, we often think of the sowing as our tears going in to the ground. We want to challenge that thought, the passage speaks of seed that is being sown while you are weeping. The seed that you sow in seasons of weeping is the Word of God. Sowing the Word into yourself, others, your situation, your family especially during seasons of weeping.

Remember the journey up to the house of the Lord was not an easy one. Your journey with the Lord has not been an easy one. But the man who faithfully sow seed, despite tears in his eyes will look back and see growth.

And he is seeing the harvest this has produced! And he has security about the future. He knows more is coming. Though he might not see it all now, he knows God will restore all things, he will do great things, and is confident about what is to come.

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 128

A song of ascents.

<p>1 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.</p> <p>2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.</p> <p>3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.</p> <p>4 Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.</p>	<p>5 May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,</p> <p>6 and may you live to see your children's children.</p>
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Peace be upon Israel.

- **Psalm 128**

A song of ascents.

1 Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
who walk in his ways.

2 You will eat the fruit of your labor;

blessings and prosperity will be yours.

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your sons will be like olive shoots
around your table.

4 Thus is the man blessed
who fears the Lord.

5 May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,

6 and may you live to see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 128 is actually a seven fold blessing. The man who fears the Lord and is walking in his ways is confidently declaring this:

7 fold blessing.

- Prosperity
- Eating fruit of your labor
- Wife who is a fruitful vine
- Sons like olive shoots
- Blessings all your days
- Prosperity of Jerusalem
- Seeing your grandchildren.

He is certain about what is to come and is overflowing with trust as he looks forward to the blessing of God for obedience.

“FRUITFULNESS”		
<p style="text-align: center;">THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 126 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” 3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. 4 Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. 5 Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. 6 Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. 	<p>←</p> <p>-BROUGHT BACK/FORTUNES RESTORED -VISIBLE TESTIMONY -SEED SOWN WHILE WEEPING NOW A HARVEST -RETURNING WITH SONGS OF JOY</p> <p>1. BLESSED/PROSPEROUS 2. EATING THE FRUIT OF YOUR LABOR 3. WIFE IS A FRUITFUL VINE 4. SONS LIKE OLIVE SHOOTS 5. BLESSED ALL YOUR DAYS 6. SEE THE PROSPERITY OF JERUSALEM 7. SEE YOUR CHILDREN’S CHILDREN</p> <p>→</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 128 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. 2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 This is the man blessed who fears the Lord. 5 May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, 6 and may you live to see your children’s children. Peace be upon Israel.

Connection:

We are now at the final stage before the central point and it is full of restoration, prosperity and blessing! Can you see what a difference it is from where we began?

The journey that started with recognition, drove us to seeing our essential help from the Lord, to nearness with God, having confidence in trust, ultimate deliverance and a deep security, and it now is producing fruitfulness all around. There is confidence in the Lords restoration, and the abundance that he will produce as you fear the Lord!

Which leads us to the pinnacle of the chiasm! What it has all been pointing to. Lets dive in and unpack it. Psalm 127

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

Psalm 127

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
its builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

2 In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

3 Sons are a heritage from the Lord,
children a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are sons born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.
They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

- **Psalm 127**

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
its builders labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

2 In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—

for he grants sleep to[A] those he loves.

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4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
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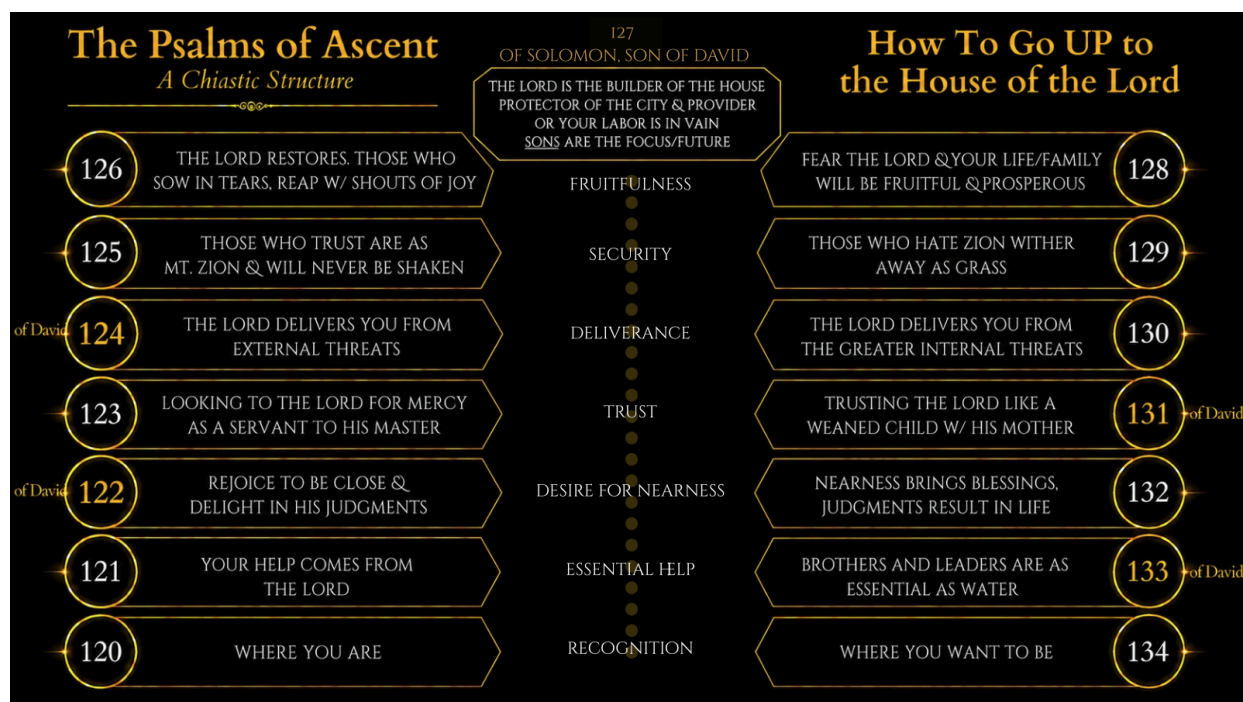
They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

Verses 1-2 the emphasis is without the Lord, what we do is in vain.
Building a house, watching over a city, or providing for others.

The end of verse two can be translated: "for while they sleep he provides for them"

It is as if the psalmist has ascended to the house of the Lord and is looking around recognizing it has always been the Lord and anything that wasn't him would fall away.

So too for you, as you trust the Lord in this process/journey, we will look back and realize God was building something better than we could ever imagine.



We must have clarity on this: You are not the one making all of this work. You are not the one holding everything together. It is the Lord, and your trust in him is essential. The son of david says "unless the Lord..." Jesus says, unless I... and how does he build the house? Its through this process.

And get this, the psalm 127 is a chiasm itself. Do you know what is the center?

<p>PSALM 127 ITSELF IS A CHIASM WITHIN A CHIASM!</p>	<p>THE PSALMS OF ASCENT</p> <p>Psalm 127 <i>A song of ascents.</i></p>	<p>הנה נחלת יהוה בנים שכר פרי הבטן</p>	<p>SONS</p> <p>THE PINNACLE OF THE ENTIRE CHIASM</p>
	<p>1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.</p>		
	<p>2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.</p>		
	<p>3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.</p>		
	<p>4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.</p>		
	<p>5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.</p>		

Verse 3 "sons are a heritage from the Lord, Children a reward from him. And even more, verse 3 itself is a chiasm. And in the middle....is sons or children.

Written by the son of David himself, Solomon. Remember David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but his son was the one who did it. Children are a heritage from the Lord. This is all aimed at our sons.

- The son will crush the serpent, Genesis 3:15
- In you seed or sons, all Nations shall be blessed! Genesis 22:17-18
- I loved Israel, and called my Son out of Egypt Hosea 11:1
- This is my beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased Matthew 3:17
- women will be saved through childbearing or their sons 1
Tomothy 2:15
- creation waits with eager expectations for the Sons of God to
liberate it from its bondage to decay, Romans 8:19

- And it is sons who will replace the rebellious powers of heaven as God's government on the earth

The man whose house is built by God is standing on the mountain of God with a heritage of sons, Sons who will change the world.

And think about what he compares sons to: arrows. Meant to be wielded correctly, pulled back and sent forth.

They are also protection, physically and spiritually. The Rabbis talk about how "they will not be put to shame at the gates." because their sons are there to help.

Closing:

Have you been stuck outside and far away from the Lord? Come and ascend at the altar

Has the Lord been the one to build your house? Surrender control and ask the Lord to take over the building of your house and family, the watching over of all the affairs and the providing for all needs.

We rarely ever talk about giving but if you have not been tithing and are toiling day and night to provide...it is vanity...He is the one that provides

If your focus has been on yourself rather than sons, you are missing the entire point