



## The Songs of Ascent: God's Roadtrip Playlist

### Lesson 5 - Psalm 125

"Does anyone need the restroom?!"

*Before we get going with this lesson...*

... any comments or questions from last week?

... did you do the homework?

**TURNING THE CAR ON.** Do you remember every portion of a drive, or do you pull in at home and realize you don't remember how you got there?

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#### **BEFORE WE GET INTO THE PSALM TODAY...**

What are the Songs of Ascent?

What are the "two roadtrips" we're on?

Who is "the pilgrim" in view of the two road trips?

**Let's have a volunteer read Psalm 125. (NIV printed on the next page.)**

As you listen, think about the following things.

- What parallelism do you note? Of what type(s)?
- Are you using a different Bible translation? Do you note any differences?
- What names or concepts are mentioned with which you're unfamiliar?

## Psalm 125

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 LORD, do good 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 on Israel.

**Today, I'm not going to guide the conversation. I'm going to walk around, drink coffee, and hear what you all have to say about the Songs of Ascent, and about this psalm in particular.**

(To be totally clear: I will "guide" the conversation with a few prompts for discussion Psalm 125, written out below. But I'm going to let you all take those prompts in whichever directions you'd like.)

Imagine that you are a Hebrew settling back in Israel after the end of the exile (during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah). What does Psalm 125 teach you?

Imagine that you are a Christian of the early church, persecuted by the Roman-backed rulers of your region. What does Psalm 125 teach you?

Imagine that you are a European Christian living in the 1500s, as the Ottomans threaten your borders. What does Psalm 125 teach you?<sup>1</sup>

Imagine that you are a Chilean Christian living during the dictatorship of Pinochet (1973-90). What does Psalm 125 teach you?

Imagine that you are an American Christian in the 21st century living through an election cycle during which the party you did not support took power. What does Psalm 125 teach you?

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<sup>1</sup> Luther wrote on this topic a number of times.

## Homework!

This week, I want to hear from you what you're taking out of our studies on the Songs of Ascent. **Read over Psalms 120 to 125 again this week. Then text or call me** with something that you're including in your prayers, or a new thought you're pondering, that's come out of these studies. (All of the previous study sheets are on Grace of God's website if you don't have your copy.)

Next week we'll take a week off from the Roadtrip Playlist to talk about our church restart mission and vision. As you look ahead to that discussion next week, consider what the Songs of Ascent say to us about these and other topics:

- the individual believer
- the assembly of believers
- corporate worship
- Law and Gospel

## Closing Prayer.

*What thoughts in this psalm lend themselves to your prayer?*