

Psalm 121

We come to one of the most famous Psalms in today's study. Indeed verse 1 is a familiar refrain that many of us have heard repeated throughout our lifetime. This particular chapter is not difficult to understand but it is rich with reminders about God's gracious character and the blessing of belonging to Him. There are three attributes of God that should give us joy and hope as revealed in this week's text.

1. The Lord is Faithful

- a. The Psalm is written with confident assurance that God will indeed help His own
- b. We see this in the opening statement and the reality and nature of that help us fleshed out for us in verse 3
- c. The idea that God will not let your foot slip is not meant to be a throwaway line, instead it is meant to communicate God's Sovereign concern and power to keep us from stumbling into dangerous circumstances
- d. Notice here that it is God who is navigating the tumultuous waters for David and David is uniquely qualified to testify of God's goodness in this respect
 - i. He knew that God had seen him through difficulties and struggles (think his conflict with King Saul, his altercation with Goliath and his military exploits), in all those things it was evident that God did not let his foot slip
- e. The larger point is that God is guarding and guiding His children all along the way in their lives
- f. God can be trusted and relied upon
 - i. The very fact that He is present and faithful is reassuring in life's difficult moments

2. The Lord is Alert

- a. The second attribute we see is God's alert attention to His children
- b. Notice here the verse says that God never slumbers
 - i. This is communicating the truth that God is never unaware
 - ii. You can't catch Him at a bad time
 - iii. You can't sneak past Him in the wee hours of the morning or in a moment of confusion
 - iv. God is always on, all the time
- c. Furthermore, we see that the Lord watches over us day and night
 - i. He is always aware, always faithful and always on guard
- d. Nothing has ever occurred outside of God's understanding
- e. This stands in stark contrast to the rest of God's creation
 - i. There have been times when I have been physically present with my children and yet my mind and attention was elsewhere
 - ii. I can be "in the room" and be thinking about other things, totally unaware of the problems or dangers that my kids face

- iii. I could be next to my kids but fast asleep and therefore little help in keeping them from an undetected enemy
 - f. While this condition is normal to mankind, it is impossible for God
- 3. The Lord Protects
 - a. Finally, the mere fact of God's presence is not enough, instead we see that God is not only aware of all things, He is over all things which promises us that we are safe from eternal harm
 - b. Verse 7 says "the Lord will keep you from all harm"
 - i. Some of us might want to quibble with that verse
 - ii. Did God keep you from all physical pain?
 - 1. Some of you have been harmed and you may well wonder why God allowed the trial
 - 2. Does this text teach that we will never physically suffer? Hardly!
 - 3. Instead, the point of the passage is that God will guard us from eternal ruin and anything that would threaten our standing with Him eternally
 - 4. He will keep us from falling to the enemy, He will guard us from wandering from the faith and He will ensure that we will make it safely to eternity with Him