

PSALM 121

The Lord the Keeper of Israel

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Song of Ascents.
- B. "Praise God the Keeper of His People Song of a Traveler Whose Guide is Jehovah"

THE TEXT.

- I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?
- 2 My help *comes* from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He 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 guard your going out and your coming in
From this time forth and forever.

COMMENTS.

- A. The main focus of this psalm is that God is our help and keeper. The first two verses use the term help, and v3,4,5,7 and 8 describe Him as the one who keeps us or preserves us.
- B. God is my Help (121:1-2).
 - [v1] "I will lift up my eyes to the hills..." The hills here refer to Jerusalem and the pilgrim journeying toward Mount Zion, looking for the city. "from whence comes my help?" It may be from the "hills" of Jerusalem that the help comes, in the sense that God dwells there.
 - [v2] My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." The Lord may be thought of as "dwelling" in Jerusalem, but He is universal.
- C. God Preserves (121:3-8).
 - [v3-5] The Lord is described over and over as the "keeper" of Israel.
 - [v6] "The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night." It is easy to understand the danger of the sun causing sunstroke in that climate, but the moon striking one is not now considered a danger. But the Greek word for epilepsy in the NT is from a word that means "moonstruck," and is translated in the KJV as "lunatic." They believed that moonlight caused insanity, and our word "lunacy" comes from lunar, "pertaining to the moon."
 - [v7,8] "The Lord will preserve you from all evil..." Coffman says that this is the actual meaning of v6. Miller says that "evil" here should be understood in the sense of sorrow or distress, exemplified by death.