

PSALM 123

Prayer for the LORD'S Help.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Song of Ascents.
- B. "Unto You I Lift Up My Eyes."

COMMENTS.

- A. Psalm 123:1.

To You I lift up my eyes,

O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

[v1] "I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- from whence comes my help?" Here He lifts up his eyes to God in heaven. This song is a beautiful expression of humility and total dependence on the Lord for mercy and protection.

[v1] "...O You who dwell in the heavens." They thought of Jerusalem as God's dwelling, between the seraphim over the mercy seat, but the psalmist here reminds the pilgrims that God's dwelling is really in heaven. He is in control, and knows of their afflictions even in foreign countries.

- B. Psalm 123:2.

Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* to the hand of their master,

As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes *look* to the LORD our God,

Until He is gracious to us.

[v2] "...as the eyes of the servants look to the hand of their masters... eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress..." Coffman says that this describes the behavior of slaves in ancient times and quotes Barnes:

"there were many slaves who customarily stood in silence, intensely prepared to do the bidding of their masters, looking steadily upon the hands of their 'lords,' who usually signaled their desires by motions of the hand." (*Barnes Notes*, Vol. III, p. 240)

- C. Psalm 123:2,3.

Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* to the hand of their master,

As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes *look* to the LORD our God,

Until He is gracious to us.

3 Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us,

For we are greatly filled with contempt.

[v2,3] "Have mercy on us..." The humble petition of a servant who realizes his unworthiness.

- D. Psalm 123:3,4.

Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us,

For we are greatly filled with contempt.

4 Our soul is greatly filled

With the scoffing of those who are at ease,

And with the contempt of the proud.

[v3,4] The psalmist expresses contempt and scorn for those who are at ease and filled with pride and contempt for others.