

PSALM 125

The LORD Surrounds His People.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Song of Ascents. "Jehovah Round About His People."
- B. The central figure of this psalm is that as the mountains around Jerusalem were secure and fixed, God is around His people to protect them. Coffman quotes the *Pulpit Commentary*, (Vol. 8, p. 211), in a descriptions of the mountains around Jerusalem.

"The mountains that are 'round about Jerusalem' are, on the east, the Mount of Olives; on the south, the Hill of Evil Counsel; on the west, the ridge beyond the valley of Jehoshaphat; and on the north, the high ground about Scopas. All of these are higher than the platform upon which the city is built."
- C. The short song emphasizes two themes:
 - 1. The Lord protects those who trust Him (125:1,2).
 - 2. The Lord treats us according to our deeds (125:3-5).

THE TEXT.

- 125:1** Those who trust in the LORD
Are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.
- 2** As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the LORD surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.
- 3** For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land of the righteous,
So that the righteous will not put forth their hands to do wrong.
- 4** Do good, O LORD, to those who are good
And to those who are upright in their hearts.
- 5** But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways,
The LORD will lead them away with the doers of iniquity.
Peace be upon Israel.

COMMENTS.

- A. The Lord Protects Those who Trust Him.

[v1,2] Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Jerusalem and the mountains around her.
- B. The Lord Treats Us According to Our Deeds.

[v3] "For the scepter of wickedness shall not REST on the land allotted to the righteous..." It seems that the emphasis is on the word "rest." God will not permit the wicked to continue to rule over the righteous. He may use the wicked to punish His people for their sins, as the Assyrians and the Babylonians afflicted them for a while then they were punished for their own sins.

[v5] "As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them away with workers of iniquity." The expression, "lead them away" means that they will be lead captive rather than lead them with His word.

"Peace be upon Israel." This is a prayerful request for the Lord to do for them. The KJV has, "but peace shall be upon Israel" which would make it a prophecy. I could not find any other version than the KJV that had that reading.