

The Lord Helps His People
(Psalm 124:8)

Introduction:

1. At the end of Psalm 124 the writer concluded by making a statement on behalf of his fellow Israelites.
 - a. He indicated that "the Lord helps His people."
 - b. He also identified the Lord as the Maker of "*heaven and earth.*"
2. The Psalms state many times that the Lord helps His people (121:1-2).
3. The Psalms show how the Lord's people are able to rejoice and be happy because of His help (146:5-6).
4. In our lesson we are examining:
 - a. the information in Psalm 124:1-7 that led the writer to say: "*Our help is in the name of the Lord*"
 - b. 3 occasions when the Lord's people rejoiced after He helped them.

Discussion:

I. PSALM 124:1-7

- A. (vs.1-5) The Lord's people would have perished if He had not been on their side.
 1. The writer is reflecting upon an occasion when the enemies of the Israelites:
 - a. had risen up against them (vs.2b)
 - b. had kindled their wrath against them (vs.3b).
 2. If the Lord had not been on the side of His people,;
 - a. their enemies would have swallowed them up quickly (vs.3a)
 - b. they would have been destroyed as if they drowned (vs.4-5).
- B. (vs.7) The escape of the Lord's people from their enemies is compared to a bird escaping from a trap.
- C. (vs.6) God is praised for not allowing His people to be a prey to their enemies.
- D. (vs.8) The writer concluded by saying: "*Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*"
- E. With the message of this Psalm before us, let us turn our attention to . . .

II. 3 OCCASIONS WHEN THE LORD'S PEOPLE REJOICED AFTER HE HELPED THEM

- A. The Lord helped His people by saving them from the Egyptians.
 1. (Exodus 14:10-14) The Israelites were afraid when the Egyptians approached them.
 2. (Exodus 14:26-31) The Egyptians were destroyed in the Red Sea.
 3. Moses and the Israelites sang a song after God saved them (Exodus 15:1-2).
- B. The Lord helped His people by saving them from the captivity in Babylon.
 1. (2 Chronicles 36:18-20) The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the Israelites into captivity.
 2. (Ezra 1:1-3) God sent Cyrus, the king of Persia, to conquer Babylon, and he allowed the Israelites to return to their homeland.
 3. (Psalm 126:1-3) The Israelites were very happy after God saved them.
- C. The Lord helped His people by saving them from Haman.
 1. Haman devised a plan for destroying the Jews (Esther 3:5-6, 13).
 2. God had allowed Esther, a young Jewish woman, to become queen of Persia, and she identified Haman as the enemy of her people.
 3. Haman was hanged (Esther 7:10).
 4. (Esther 8-9) The Jews were allowed to defend themselves against their enemies.
 5. The Jews rejoiced with a feast after God saved them (Esther 9:17-19).

Conclusion:

1. Let us always remember: "*Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth*" (Psalm 124:8).
2. Let us approach the Lord for help with confidence (Hebrews 4:16).
3. Let us make a practice of reflecting upon the Lord's help, and let us allow His help to cause us to rejoice (Psalm 118:24).