

The Lord Helps His People
(Psalm 121)

Introduction:

1. This Psalm teaches a valuable lesson -- "The Lord helps His people."
2. This is a lesson that we need to be reminded of from time to time.
3. As we study this Psalm we need to pay close attention to the format.
 - a. Vs.1&2 were written from a personal perspective [the writer revealed something he had learned].
 - b. Vs. 3-8 were written from a teaching perspective [the writer showed how we can profit from what he had learned].

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-2) THE WRITER IDENTIFIED THE LORD AS HIS HELPER
 - A. It appears from vs.1 that the writer identified the hills as the source of his help.
 1. Keep in mind that this Psalm is "a song of degrees" [Psalms 120-134].
 2. The Israelites recited these Psalms as they traveled to Jerusalem that was surrounded by hills.
 - B. As the writer continued in vs.2 he clearly stated that his help came from the Lord.
 1. He mentioned in vs.2b that the Lord "*made heaven and earth.*"
 2. When he saw the hills he thought about the One who made them.
 3. Seeing the hills reminded the writer of the Lord whom he could not see (Romans 1:20).
- II. (vs.3-6) THE WRITER SHOWED HOW THE LORD "KEEPS" HIS PEOPLE
 - A. This is one way that the Lord helps His people -- by "keeping" us.
 - B. Let us consider some details that are revealed.
 1. (vs.3a) As our keeper, the Lord will not allow us to stumble (Jude 24).
 2. (vs.3b-4) The Lord keeps His people continuously -- He does not slumber or sleep.
 3. (vs.5-6) As our keeper, the Lord protects us during the day and the night.
- III. (vs.7-8) THE WRITER SHOWED HOW THE LORD "PRESERVES" HIS PEOPLE
 - A. This is another way that the Lord helps His people -- by "preserving" us.
 - B. Let us consider some additional details that are revealed.
 1. (vs.7a) The Lord preserves His people "*from all evil.*"
 - a. This does not mean that God's people will not face unpleasant situations [Romans 1:18 mentions "*the sufferings of this present time*"].
 - b. We are assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).
 2. (vs.7b) The Lord preserves our "souls."
 3. (vs.8a) The Lord preserves us "coming and going."
 4. (vs.8b) The Lord's ability to preserve His people is dependable.

Conclusion:

1. These principles are also taught in the New Testament.
2. According to Hebrews 4:16, the Lord helps His people.
3. As our keeper:
 - a. the Lord will not allow us to stumble (2 Peter 1:10)
 - b. the Lord protects us continuously (Hebrews 13:5b-6).
4. The Lord also preserves His people (1 Thessalonians 5:23).