

We will begin our 14th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Today's message is from Psalm 120. /Psalms 120 to 134 are referred to as the "Song of Ascents."

/Believers are those who ascend the temple. /This refers to not only the visible temple, but it also includes the invisible temple. /The invisible temple is the spiritual temple. /This is the place where God dwells, which is God's world.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

/Verse 1 says, "In my distress I called to the LORD." /As the believer cries out to God, God answers him. /Deliver me from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue. /There are deceitful tongues and lying tongues.

/People say words that wound us. /Verse 4 says that God judges the wicked with the warrior's sharp arrows. /He also judges them with glowing coals of the broom tree.

/The coals of the broom tree do not quickly die out. /Meschech in verse 5 is a descendant of Japheth. /Kedar is a descendant of Ishmael. /The tribes of Meschech and Kedar like to fight. /They are people who complain and grumble a lot.

/They are people who inflict pain on others. That is why God judges them. /The wicked like to fight, but they hate peace.

/We will continue with Psalm 121. /Where does my help come from?

/Verses 1-4. Let us read. /I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

/ "I lift up my eyes to the hills." / "Hills" refers to the natural world that God created. /In the natural world, there are mountains, trees, and plains.

/From where does our help come? /It comes from God, the Creator of heaven and earth. / God does not let our feet be moved. /God does not sleep or slumber as he protects us.

/God is always awake. /Verse 5 says that God is my shade on my right hand. /The right side is the important, essential side. /God is our shade. /When it says God is our shade, it means that God protects his believers.

/Verse 6 says that the sun will not strike us by day, nor the moon by night. /What does the day's sun signify? /It signifies distress and suffering in the light. /What does the night's moon signify? /It signifies the secret persecution and suffering that the believer experiences in the dark.

/God is the one who protects us from all these things. /Verse 8 says that the Lord keeps our going out and coming in. /We believe that God is our help. /Everyone may abandon me, but God protects me. /Even if my parents leave me, God will protect me.

/My brothers and friends may hate me and abandon me, but God is with me. /On what condition does God stay with me? /He stays with me under the condition that I stay with him. /It means that I live according to God's will. /Then God will be on my side.

/We will continue with Psalm 122. /Let us go to the house of the LORD.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

/Blessed is the one who goes to the house of the LORD. /We receive blessings when we set our feet into the temple of God. /There is God's physical temple, and there is an invisible temple. /We need to have spirits that long for God's world.

/God's world is the place in which God dwells. /Revelation 11:1 tells us this. /At this place, there are those who are measured. /They are people who live in the temple, people who live on the altar, and people who are worshippers.

/God acknowledges these people. /Believers who long for God go out to the temple of God. /Where does God live? /The bush on Mount Horeb was burning. Exodus 3:1. /God was at this place.

/Moses, upon seeing this sight, drew closer to it, as it was beautiful. /What did God say to Moses at this time? /He said, "Take off your sandals. /You are standing on holy ground." /What does it mean to take off your sandals?

/It means that you have become a servant. /You are denying yourself. /We must become servants before God and deny ourselves as we go to him. /Where God is with us is where God dwells. /This place is the spiritual temple. /There is great joy and beauty in this place.

/Verse 3 also talks about this. /Jerusalem is built as a city that is bound firmly together. /This is showing us the world of God. /There is order in God's world. /It is a world that is well organized. /It is a beautiful city. /We need to long for and look to God's world.

/Verses 6-9. /Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!" For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

/There will be peace in Jerusalem. /Jerusalem refers to the city in which God dwells.
/Those who love Jerusalem will be secure. /There is peace in this place. /There is spiritual
peace that God gives us. /In this city, there is security.

/God opens the gate and opens the path of prosperity. /Verse 7 says that peace is within
the walls. /Who has this peace that comes from God? /Those who firmly hold onto God
are given peace. /Those who obey have peace.

/Within God's church, people hold many different positions. /They are servants of God.
/In the church, there are elders, /deacons, /and church assistants. /There are your average
believers. /Each position has a God-given duty.

/People in every position must hold onto God and obey him. /Those who hold these
positions must seek God and obey. /They must not use their own forces. /They must not
try to make their own factions.

/If someone does this, he becomes an enemy of God. /We are those who work for the
Lord's church. /We are builders of God's house. /Joy will come to these people.

/We will continue with Psalm 123. /We must look to God. /The believer lifts up his eyes
and prays to God. /Like a servant looking to his master, /the believer must earnestly seek
and long for God.

/We need to look to God until he shows us his mercy. /Verse 3 asks God to have mercy
on us. /We are being despised. /We have had more than enough of contempt. /The wicked
are scoffing at us.

/They are arrogant people. /Our hearts have suffered large wounds. /The message is
related to the message in Nehemiah 2:19. /During this time period, the enemies were
causing a disturbance. /The city of Jerusalem was being constructed, but the enemies kept
interfering.

/Our enemies treat us with contempt. /They laugh at us. /They say, "We'll see if they
prosper!" /Believers are praying to God. /We are powerless before these unrighteous
people.

/Why isn't God showing us his mercy? /We are earnestly praying to him. /We need to
pray in this way.

/We will continue with Psalm 124. /God is on our side. /He is on the believer's side.

/Verses 1-5. Let us read. /If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel
now say— if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against
us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over
us would have gone the raging waters.

/David is 100 percent certain that God is on our side. /People rise against us, but we do not worry. /Because God is on our side, we are not afraid.

/God will judge those who stand against us. /God will certainly judge them. /Psalm 118:6 also talks about this. /God is on my side. /What can man do to me? /I will not be afraid.

/The person who has God by his side is not afraid. /There are times when things go well for us, and there are times when things don't go so well. /Who is the judge of all this? /Are you the judge? /How am I to judge this?

/I have succeeded. /I have failed. /These are subjective judgments. /We are making judgments from a human perspective. /Does God see it as success? /Does God say that you are a failure?

/Whether we succeed or fail, we must leave everything to God. /God is my help. /God is on my side. /God knows that I am shedding tears, /and he knows that I am in pain.

/Verse 7 says that God delivers us from the snare. /God delivers us from these traps. /He delivers us from temptation and persecution. /The God who created the heavens and the earth is on my side. /Do you have any fears? /Verse 8 says that our help is in the LORD our Creator.

/We will continue with Psalm 125. /Those who trust in the LORD will not be moved.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

/Those who trust in the LORD cannot be moved. /They are like Mount Zion, which is forever. /Mount Zion refers to the world of God. /It is a strong place. /As the mountains surround Jerusalem, God protects his people.

/Psalm 34:7 also talks about this. /The angel of the LORD surrounds and defends those who fear the Lord. /The angel delivers the people. /Who receives the punishment of God?

/Proverbs 22:14 tells us the answer. /Those who make the LORD angry fall into that sin. /The wicked fall into sin. /2 Kings 6:14 also discusses this. /Elisha speaks to his servant.

/Elisha prays to God, "Please open the eyes of my servant." /When the servant's eyes were opened, he saw that Elisha was surrounded by horses and chariots of fire. /Numerous Aram armies were surrounding Elisha, but he was not afraid.

/Verse 5. /But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

/There are those who turn aside to their crooked ways. /On the other hand, verse 4 says that there are those who are upright in their hearts. /Who turn aside to crooked ways? /They are those who have thrown away their conscience of faith.

/God takes away his peace from those who have turned aside. /He takes from them their joy. /Our conscience is different from that of the people of the world. /Believer's possess a good conscience. /We need to work hard to apply our conscience of faith.

/We will continue with Psalm 126. /There is a time when God restores the fortunes of Zion.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

/Great joy has come upon Israel. /A joy beyond expression has come upon Israel. /The people of Israel spent 70 years in captivity in Babylon.

/However, the day has come for Israel's liberation. /The time has come for the Israelites to return home. /The verse tells us that it feels like they are dreaming.

/Verse 2 says, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter." /Everyone is talking. /They are saying that the LORD has done great things for them. /The Israelites are returning home.

/Verse 4 says that the people are returning like the streams of Negeb. /The streams of Negeb display a unique quality. /During the dry season, the water completely dries up. /However, during the rainy season, water fills the streams. /God will restore the fortunes of Zion like the streams of Negeb.

/Verses 5-6. /Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

/There are those who sow in tears. /They are sowing seeds. /It can be difficult when we first sow the seeds. /We may shed tears. /In reality, we may shed tears during the early springtime.

/The weather is cold. /The water too is cold. /This is when we sow the seed. /Sometimes, when we evangelize, we are brought to tears. /People may wound us and say hurtful things to us when we evangelize. /Also, we may shed tears as we do God's work.

/However, the day will come when we bring in sheaves of joy. /Luke 18 talks about this. /There are people who make sacrifices for the kingdom of God. /We are looking at the message in Luke 18:29-30.

/God will repay these people many times. /We may shed tears as we spread the gospel, but we should not despair. /Do not give up. /God will certainly help you.

/We will continue with Psalm 127.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

/If God does not help us, everything we do is in vain. /Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. /What does the house symbolize? /It symbolizes the temple. /It refers to the church today.

/The house can also refer to our families. /It can also be an organization, a business, or a nation. /If God does not build any of these things, we labor in vain.

/Unless God watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. /What does it mean when it says that God watches over the city? /It means that God is ruler. /God preserves order.

/He guarantees peace and security. /God must watch over nations and societies in order for them to continue to exist. /Unless God watches over them, there is no use. /People wake up early in the morning and work late into the night.

/We believers need to be diligent in doing the work of the world. /Diligence is a part of our Puritanical faith. /God also blesses our bodies. /Western culture developed under the Puritan faith.

/People of the Puritan faith are known to be up to challenges and adventurous. /They have a tendency to build their faith forward. /They work diligently and become wealthy. /If God is not with us, everything we do is in vain.

/People eat the bread of their toil. /People do not necessarily succeed just because they work hard and try hard. /Verse 3 says that children are a heritage from the LORD. /They are also a reward from God. /We need to nurture our children in faith.

/There are children of the flesh and children of the spirit. /To pastors, members of a church are spiritual children. /The students we teach at Sunday school are our spiritual children. /The people we lead to church are also our spiritual children.

/Verse 4 says that the children of one's youth are like arrows in the hand of a warrior. /They are the children of the brave. /These people display courage when they do God's work. /They do not fear when doing the work of God. /God blesses their children. /They are not put to shame.

/We will continue with Psalm 128. /Blessed is the one who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. /He is someone who fears God. /He is someone who obeys the word of God. /He prospers as much as he labors.

/Verse 3 says that his wife is in the house. /Who is a wife? /A wife is someone who helps her husband, and she is a fellow worker in faith. /Aaron, Hur, and Miriam were people who worked with Moses.

/When we fear God, God sends someone to help us. /1 Corinthians 4:15 tells us this. /Even if you have ten thousand guides in Christ, /you do not have many fathers. /I became your father. /Paul is saying these things.

/Paul speaks in Galatians 4:19. /He says that he is in the anguish of childbirth. /He is referring to the labor of pastors. /Why is Paul working so hard? /He hopes that believers will be made into the image of Christ. /We need to raise our children well.

/We will continue with Psalm 129. /Those who hate Zion will be put to shame and turned backward. /They are people who have afflicted me from my youth. /However, these people will not prevail over me.

/Verse 4 says that God has cut the cords of the wicked because he is righteous. /Verse 6 says that the wicked are like grass on the housetops that withers. /Grass grows on the rooftops. /They wither and die when the sun rises.

/In this way, the ways of the wicked fail. /There are people who disrupt the work of God. /There are people who hurt believers. /God will certainly judge them.

/We may be tempted at times. /However, we must not hinder the work of God's salvation. /We must not be against our pastors. /Pastors may be at fault. /What should we do then?

/What should we do when pastors make mistakes? /If there is a problem regarding the truth, we must report the case to the superior authorities. /If the issue concerns the truth, God will judge the pastor. /However, the problem may lie in the pastor's character. /Pastors may have little flaws.

/When we see their flaws, we should talk to the pastors. /If the pastor listens, then all is well. But what happens if he doesn't listen? /We need to handle the situation wisely. /If we stand against pastors, we will eventually be the ones who lose.

/We will continue with Psalm 130. /I cry out to God and hope in him. /Out of the depths, I cry out to God. /I am asking God to listen to my spirit's pleas. /I am asking him to forgive me of my sins.

/Verses 5-6. Let us read. /I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

/My soul waits and waits for God. /My soul waits for God more than the watchmen wait for the morning. /We need to look to God and wait for him.

/Verse 5 says that we put our hope in God. /We need to hope in God according to his word. /I must place my hope in God as I obey his word. /Psalm 119:131 talks about this. /It says that I pant because I long for God's word.

/Psalm 19:10 also discusses this. /God's word is sweeter than honey. /Psalm 119:127 also talks about this. /It says that I love your commandments above fine gold. /The believer is waiting for God. /He is waiting for God to watch over him.

/The believer waits for God to help him, and he waits for things to happen according to God's will. /Furthermore, the believer waits for God's gospel movement to take place. /We too are waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

/We will continue with Psalm 131. /David says that his heart is not proud and his eyes are not raised too high. /Psalm 131 is a Psalm of David. /David is not proud. /His eyes are not raised high. /Someone whose heart is lifted up and eyes are raised high is a proud person.

/Proverbs 18:12 talks about this. /The heart of man is haughty before destruction. /Pride leads to destruction. /Humility leads to honor. /David did not occupy himself with things too great and too marvelous for him.

/What are these things that are too great and too marvelous? /They are things in which God does not delight. /There are things I want to do, but they are things that God hates. /There are things I want to do that are not consistent with the Bible.

/We need to overcome these desires. /We call this vanity. /God does not want me to do it, but I try to do it anyway. This is wrong.

/Verse 2 says that we need to be like a weaned child. /A weaned child lies in the arms of his mother. /The child is calm and at peace. /We need to enjoy true satisfaction and peace in the Lord.

/We will continue with Psalm 132. /God remembers the believer's suffering. /The believer continually prays to God. /He wants to discover the place where God dwells.

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/Verse 5. Let us read. /until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

/The believer seeks to discover the place of God. /Until then, I cannot sleep peacefully. /I cannot get into my bed.

<Approximately 2 lines deleted>

/I pray to God until he solves all my problems.

/Verse 12. /If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”

/God helps those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. /God gives them rest.

/Verse 15 says that God will give them bread and make them full. /We need to keep God’s covenant and his precepts.

/We will continue with Psalm 133.

/God delights when brothers dwell in unity. /There are families of faith. /There are churches of faith. /We also have our friends of faith. /We can all be united. /What is the first condition for unity? /We must unite in faith.

/The next condition for unity is love. /We also need to be unified in the word of God. /Verse 3 says that God gives us grace like the dew of Hermon. /He also gives us eternal blessing.

/We will continue with Psalm 134. /The servant stands by the house of the LORD at night. /He lifts his hands and blesses God.

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/When we pray, we need to devote our hearts to God.

/We will continue with Psalm 135.

/Verse 4 says that the LORD has chosen a special people. /They are God’s special possession.

/Verse 15 tells us not to serve idols. /Idols cannot speak. /They have eyes, but they cannot see. /They have ears, but they cannot hear. /We need to abandon all our idols.

/This concludes the 14th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Thank you.