Psalms Of The Ascent

Joshua Creel · Psalm 120 · Series: **Psalms**

INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 120 through Psalm 134. Fifteen Psalms that form a collection within the book of Psalms.
- These Psalms had to do with pilgrimage. that the Jews were required three times a year to present themselves to the place of God's choosing.
- The idea is ascending to Zion, is ascending to where God is, to where God's presence is.

1 Being Away and Journeying to Jerusalem

Psalm 120; Psalm 121; Psalm 122

- In my trouble I cried to the Lord, and he answered me.
- My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.
- As we come together as God's house, we're not in God's house, we are God's house.

2 Persecution: Looking to the Lord

Psalm 124

- It's the journey of life. That wherever you are, you're on your journey to be with the Lord.
- Had it not been the Lord who was on our side when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive.
- When you're going through daily life, there's an answer for it in the Psalms.
- Ultimately, yes, God does deliver. And God does not forsake his people.

3 Prosperity and the Blessings of Life

Psalm 127; Psalm 128

- Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.
- How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.
- Don't only dwell on your final destination.
- Be thankful every day, not just for the hope that he provides for the future, but for the blessings he offers here and now.

4 An Exhortation for Times of Personal Failure

- If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand. But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be feared.
- That term loving kindness points you back to the covenant. God's faithfulness to the covenant.
- Because God is merciful and gracious and faithful, he has provided even in that covenant for forgiveness. And so there is hope.

5 Times Where We Simply Do Not Understand

Psalm 131

- Specifically, how can so many things happen to good people?
- Surely I have composed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child rest against his mother.
- We want to know right here and now why are all these things happening, and what's going to be the final outcome?
- I must quiet myself and just have hope in the Lord.

6 It All Points to Zion

Psalm 132; Psalm 133

- There is something there for you, no matter where you are in life.
- This is where David desired to build God's house. This is where David brought the ark.
- The focus is on Zion and God's dwelling there.
- Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Does Paul not call it a higher call? Pressing on the upward way we sometimes say. Ascending to Zion is our aim and goal in life.**

MY NOTES