



Approaching God

Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passage.

Psalm 125 - Security

Passage Introduction:

“The emphasis of Psalm 125 is not on the precariousness of the Christian life but on its solidity. Living as Christians is not walking a tightrope without a safety net high above a breathless crowd, many of whom would like nothing better than the morbid thrill of seeing you fall; it is sitting secure in a fortress. This psalm uses familiar geography to demonstrate that truth. Jerusalem was the safest of cities because of the protective fortress these hills provided. Just so is the person of faith surrounded by the Lord. Better than a city wall, better than a military fortification is the presence of the God of peace.”

Eugene Peterson - *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Read the passage slowly 2 or 3x's.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Psalm 125 - A Song of Ascents (NIV) - 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. **2** As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. **3** The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. **4** LORD, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. **5** But those who turn to crooked ways the LORD will banish with the evildoers. Peace be on Israel.

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What are some things that cause you to lose your sense of security in God's promises, plans, and love?
- What promises stand out to you in this passage as significant, important, or timely for you?
- What are 2 or 3 things you can learn about God's people in this passage?

Psalm 125

Passage Summary - (From The ESV Transformation Bible)

The faithful of the Lord have strong reason for confidence. For those who trust in Yahweh—the Lord, the covenant God of Israel—are like Mount Zion (Jerusalem), which cannot be moved (v. 1). As Jerusalem is surrounded by protecting mountains, so God’s people are surrounded by the presence of the Lord himself. God will not—indeed, he cannot—renounce his commitment to his own people. And so as Jerusalem is founded upon God’s promise, his people likewise bask in the strength and confidence of his promise and covenant commitment to preserve them (vv. 2–4).

But we must recall that God’s covenant promise is for those who truly are his people. And what marks those who are his? They are, by God’s rich grace, good and upright in heart (v. 4), whereas those who have falsely professed their faith in God turn aside to crooked ways (v. 5). Peace, then, is promised and pledged to those who comprise the true Israel, the true people of God, those who follow him faithfully and seek to do his will. These we understand by God’s further revelation are those who have been united to Christ by faith (Rom. 9:5; Gal. 3:7, 14).

Key Takeaway:

As you read today’s passage, what are 1 or 2 main takeaways that you wrote down that you want to take with you? How would you briefly summarize your observations and meditations for today?

Close in Prayer:

Close by turning today’s Psalm into your own prayer. Here are some prayer prompts to help you get started:

- **vs 1-2** - *“God thank you that you are a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need you.” (Psalm 46:1) God thank you that I don’t have to constantly worry or look over my shoulder lest evil overtake me while I’m aware. I don’t have to keep my eye on every footstep, lest I slip inadvertently for you hem me in behind and before.” (Psalm 139)*
- **vs 3** - *“God sometimes its so easy to believe whatever bad things can happen will happen. But thank you that your promise is “The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous.” Whatever bad things might happen, will not have the final word. You are working out all things for my good. Help me to remember and trust that today.*
- **vs 6-7** - *“LORD, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart.” Father, just as Jesus prayed in John 17 that you would not take me out of the world, but rather that you would guard me from the Evil one, protect me today in thought, word, and deed that I might do good and bless those around me with the goodness you provide in Christ.*