

Looking for Help

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

As the Coronavirus becomes worse, people around the world are looking everywhere for relief. World leaders make great efforts to be helpful. However, because they are sinful human beings they often fall short of expectations. For us as Christians, we can take heart in fact that our loving Lord never ever falls short because He is the Maker of heaven and earth.

This psalm may have been a song sung by people who were on a pilgrimage to the festivals in Jerusalem. It may have been done to allay the fears they might have felt as they traveled through strange territories. These are uncharted days for us as well.

Roads were not more than trails. Slipping or stumbling could be dangerous with rocks and stones strewn in the path. This was especially so when they had to wend their way through the mountains. We are on a road to eternal life. There are many obstacles in our paths, emotional, physical and spiritual. Many of them are of our own making. But the Lord does not leave us to our own devices. He sent His Son to save us from our sins and clear all spiritual barriers standing in the way of our path to heaven. The certainty of His promise is illustrated by the word “surely” in verse three. The Hebrew meaning for us today would be “don’t even think about it.” Our safety on the means to heaven is totally taken care of.

First responders work tirelessly but even they are overcome by fatigue and need to get their rest. At times they, too, get sick and need to be cared for. Our Lord never slumbers or sleeps and is there with us 24/7. Even if we should become ill, there is nothing day or night that keeps us from the Lord’s watchful eye. Even if we should die physically, the Lord keeps us safe in our eternal salvation.

Lord, thank you for world leaders who use the many talents of people to bring about an end to this serious foe. Thank you especially for our spiritual leaders who find creative means to continue the flow of the Gospel. Thank you for our first responders who lay their lives on the line for those in need. Protect them and give them success. Most of all help us nestle safely in your strong and protective arms. Amen.