

In the book of Psalms there are fifteen special Psalms that are called 'the songs of degrees' or 'the songs of ascent'. They are Psalms 120 to 134. It is believed that they were special psalms sung during festival times of the people of Israel. All males of Israel were required to go to the Temple of God in Jerusalem three times a year (Deut.16:16). The Temple of God was situated on a higher elevation in the city of Jerusalem. Hence when people went for the three annual feasts they had to take a winding upward road to reach the temple. It is believed that these songs of degrees or ascent were sung during the upward journey to the Temple of God.

This upward journey of the people of Israel to reach the house of God on the mountain of the LORD can be compared with the spiritual upward journey of a Christian believer. Yes, our Christian life is an upward journey. It is my belief that the Songs of degrees could teach us many important spiritual lessons, which are useful in our Christian walk. This study on Psalm 121 is an attempt to highlight some such spiritual truths that are primarily important to Christian living.

ISBN 978-955-51101-6-7

HELP FROM ABOVE



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ISBN 978-955-51101-6-7

1st Edition 2012

Published By

WISDOM PUBLISHERS

424, Galle Road,
Wellawatte, Colombo 6,
Sri Lanka.
077 336 77 77

HELP FROM ABOVE

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD,
which made the heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper:
the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.

Introduction

In the book of Psalms there are fifteen special Psalms that are called ‘the songs of degrees’ or ‘the songs of ascent’. They are Psalms 120 to 134. The reason as to why they were so called is not given in the Bible. Nevertheless it is believed that they were special psalms sung during festival times of the people of Israel. All males of of Israel were required to go to the Temple of God in Jerusalem three times a year (Deut.16:16). The Temple of God was situated on a higher elevation in the city of Jerusalem. Hence when people went for the three annual feasts they had to take winding upward road to reach the temple. It is believed that these songs of degrees or ascent were so called because they were sung during the upward journey to the Temple of God. The Psalmist speaks of such an experience in Psalms 42:4 “When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.” Furthermore, Isaiah 30:29 says “Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.”

This upward journey of the people of Israel to reach the house of God on the mountain of the LORD can be compared with the spiritual upward journey of a Christian believer. Yes, our Christian life is an upward journey. It is my belief that from the songs of degrees we can learn many important spiritual lessons, which are useful in our Christian walk. If you meditate each Psalm from 120 to 134 God will teach you such lessons. Psalm 121 is the second of the songs of degrees and it is well known among believers and well loved throughout many generations. Believers read this Psalm to assure themselves of God’s presence and protection. It is said that the first verse of this Psalm was recited on the moon by the third astronaut

who went there. His name was Pete Conrad. It is said that when he saw the beautiful hills on the face of the moon he was so overwhelmed and was reminded of Psalm 121:1 and he exclaimed “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

Let us take a fresh look at Psalm 121 so that the LORD may teach us simple but valuable lessons regarding our upward spiritual journey. Proverbs 4:18 says “The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more on to the perfect day.” May our lives also be so. The first verse of Psalm 121 is actually a question in the original language. “Shall I lift up mine eyes to the hills? From whence should my help come?” Many people in Israel had the sinful habit of worshipping idols on mountain tops. But the Psalmist having asked the question “shall I lift up mine eyes to the hills whence should my help come” gives the answer in verse 2 “my help cometh from the LORD which made heaven and earth.” Can you also truthfully say “my help cometh from the LORD who made heaven and earth”? God Jehovah is the true and the living God. It is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God that we could become the children of God (John 1:12). Have you thought about the kind of help the Lord God is able and willing to give us if we turn to Him with all our hearts? I have listed out 7 such helps or blessings as given in Psalm 121.

Chapter 1

Song of Salvation

We do not sing Psalm 121 because we do not know the original tune but we only read the words from the Bible. Originally it was written as a song with a beautiful tune. So through this Psalm the LORD reminds us that the first blessing He gives us is a Song. Christians are known to be singers in every generation. It does not necessarily mean that we always have a song on our lips. God has given us a song in our hearts. That song has come as a result of our salvation experience. The day I received the Lord Jesus into my heart and was born again, I had such great joy in my heart that I began singing songs though I at that time did not know any of the hymns or spiritual songs. The joy of salvation gives us a song which I would like to call the Song of Salvation. So this is the first blessing that we receive from God, the Song of Salvation. Can you also say that you have the song of salvation in your heart? We may be the worst kind of singers not able to sing even a note, but we all must have the song of salvation in our heart.

Regarding songs, the Book of Psalms mentions different kinds of songs. Let me list a few of them.

Firstly, Psalm 40:3 speaks to us of a **New Song**. “He has put a new song in my mouth even praise unto our God; men shall see it and fear and trust in the LORD.” This New Song comes to us as a result of our salvation experience. Our family members, relatives and other people will begin to see the difference in our lives. God does such a transformation in our lives through our salvation experience that it cannot go unnoticed by others. “If any man be in Christ he is a new creation” (2Corinthians 5:17). Can you truthfully say that you have a new song in your heart? You don’t have to be a composer of songs to

have this experience but you must have Christ in your heart as your Saviour and Lord. Many people in the world sing different kinds of songs. Some singers are very popular and people pay a lot of money to listen to their songs. But do you know as to what the Bible says about such songs? It calls them the songs of fools. “It is the better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:5). Psalm 14:1 says “fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.” So make sure that you have a new song in your heart that is the song which has come as a result of your salvation experience.

Secondly, Psalm 137: 4 speaks to us of the **LORD'S Song**. “How shall we sing of the LORD'S song in a strange land?” People of Israel had been taken as captives to Babylon. While they were there, the Babylonians wanted them to sing the songs of Zion for their entertainment. In response the Psalmist asks the question “How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?” So we find them referring to their spiritual songs as the LORD'S song. That means those were the songs given by the Lord. Most of them are written in the book of Psalms. Even today, the Lord gives us such songs. There are believers who could write beautiful spiritual songs. The songs written by the inspiration of the Lord will bring spiritual blessing to those who sing and listen to them. Today we sing thousands of songs and hymns in the churches, which were thus given by the Lord. Those who are in the ministry of writing songs must learn the secret of receiving the song from the Lord. Then we could truly say that it is the LORD'S song. There was a hymn writer by the name of Fanny Crosby who became blind when she was a child but the Lord gave her wonderful spiritual insight. Throughout her life-time, she wrote thousands of hymns, which are very popular in the church even today. In the well-loved hymn “Blessed assurance Jesus is mine” she speaks of “visions of rapture” bursting in her “sight”. It is a strange thing for a blind lady to speak of visions of rapture bursting in her sight. Though she was physically blind, she had good spiritual sight because

of her close walk with the Lord. Through her close association with the Lord she learnt to receive the songs from the Lord. Such songs could be called the LORD'S songs. Zephaniah 3:17 says that the Lord himself sings for joy when He sees His children. “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty, He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy, He will rest in His love He will joy over thee with SINGING”. May that song which is in the heart of the Lord come down to us so that we could truly sing the LORD'S song. Writing of songs and playing of music is a vital ministry in the church.

Thirdly, Psalm 32:7 speaks to us of **Songs of Deliverance**. “Thou art my hiding place, Thou shalt preserve me from trouble, Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance”. Songs of deliverance come to us when we overcome temptation. The Devil is always trying to tempt us and make us fall but the Psalmist says to God “Thou art my hiding place”. If we remain close to the Lord Jesus, He will deliver us from evil. “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1Cor10:13). When we overcome temptation we have a song in our hearts. We will be singing for joy. You may not have beautiful words but in your heart, you will be singing a song of deliverance.

Fourthly, Psalm 119:54 says “Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage”. The Psalmist had the habit of converting scriptures directly into songs and singing them. It would be a great blessing if we also could do this. They are called **Scripture Songs**. Today we sing many such songs, which are directly taken from the scriptures. So when we begin to sing such songs we get to know scripture by memory. Let us keep on singing such songs.

Finally, Psalm 137:3 speaks to us of **Songs of Zion**. “Sing us one of the songs of Zion”. Zion was a Jebusite fortress situated in Jerusalem.

It was later taken by King David and it became the City of David (2 Samuel 5:7). In the scripture Zion takes on different meanings according to its spiritual significance. Zion speaks to us of heaven as well as of Church. Heaven is a place of singing. In Revelation 5:9 we see the twenty four elders and the four living creatures sing a new song. That new song of heaven speaks of the redemption through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. We will be eternally singing songs in heaven. So let's get started here and now. Do not be worried about the correct pitch and tune. Even our flat singing will be heard as beautiful songs in heaven. During the 19th century, the Christians were called the people of two books. The two books were the Holy Bible and the hymnal. They always carried these two books with them. At every occasion, they sang hymns. We also should maintain this practise. We express our joy with singing (James 5:13). This also is a mark of a spirit filled life. "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess but be filled with the Spirit speaking to yourselves in Psalms and Hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph 5:18,19).

Chapter 2

Steady Steps

Verse 3 of Psalm 121 speaks to us of the second blessing that the LORD gives us. **“He will not suffer thy foot to be moved”**. This verse speaks to us of Steady Steps (assurance) the Lord gives a believer in the spiritual walk. All around us there is uncertainty. Many people find it difficult to take decisions when it comes to important matters in life. Many are worried fearing that they might make a mistake. Others grope in darkness as it were not knowing whether they are doing the right thing. In such an environment a Christian can be a good witness having the assurance of God’s guidance. Regarding a believer, Psalm 37:31 says “the law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide”. What kind of steps would you like to have? Steady steps or Sliding steps? If you want steady steps then learn to get direction from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth. Psalm 37:23 says “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delighted in his way”. Learn to allow the Lord to order your steps. Pray the prayer of the Psalmist as found in Psalm 119:133 “Order my steps in Thy Word and let not any iniquity have dominion over me”.

The Bible tells us that we should follow in the steps of the Lord Jesus. “For, even hereunto ye were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS” (1Peter 2:21). “Following His steps” is the calling of the Christian. This is the meaning of being a Christian. Many times in the gospel, we find the Lord Jesus calling people to follow Him.

1. Leave and Follow

“And Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee saw two brethren Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea for they were fishers. And he said unto them follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straight away left their nets and followed Him” (Matthew 4:18-20). This was a new beginning in the lives of Peter and Andrew. It is good for us to note that the Lord Jesus did not call them merely to believe in Him but He called them to FOLLOW Him. Even today, this is what the Lord Jesus wants us to do. When Peter and Andrew left their nets, they showed their willingness to follow the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly. The important principle we should see here is our whole heartedness in our following the Lord Jesus. Have we left anything at all in this life in order we may follow the Lord Jesus? We could see in the Bible as to how greatly the Lord Jesus used these simple men because their willingness to “leave and follow”. It is possible that some of you be called by the Lord Jesus to leave everything and serve Him only. We read testimonies of great men of God who were challenged by the Lord Jesus to give up their jobs and serve Him. But remember that all of us are not called the same way. We are called to leave certain things of our old life and follow Him. Our sinful habits, self glory, and worldly ambitions cannot go with us when we follow our Master. Before I became a believer, my ambition in life was to become a Karate expert. I used to spend hours practising the art of Karate. But when I surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus, very soon the Lord showed me that this was something that I should leave in order that I may follow Him. It was a difficult decision but the Lord gave me grace. The Lord may speak to you regarding things that you need to give up so that you may have time and liberty to follow Him. This is how we could have steady steps in our spiritual walk.

2. Listen and Follow

“My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me” (John 10:27). As a follower of the Lord Jesus the most important thing is to learn to listen to His voice. The Lord Jesus said, “My sheep heareth my voice”. His voice comes to us through the written Word of God. God desires to speak to us but we must be willing to listen. Every Christian must read the Bible regularly. Jesus said “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew4:4). The Word that “proceedeth out of the mouth of God” comes to us when we read the Bible. The word of God is our spiritual food. We take food at least three times a day to feed our body but what about our Spirit? Only the Word of God can nourish our spirit. We must have a daily reading of the Word of God both from the Old and New Testaments. We must appreciate all the books of the Bible equally. Some like to read only the book of Psalms and others only the Gospels. But remember the whole Bible is inspired by God. If we want to follow the Lord Jesus, we must hear His voice through the reading of the Bible. According to your need of the day, God will speak to your heart through your daily passage. Remember it is not a voice that you hear with your ears but in your heart. There are thousands of promises in the Word of God. We must learn to receive, appreciate and believe the promises of God. If we listen to Him and then follow Him then our steps will be steady. Always desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God will guide us through the Word of God. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

3. Lay down your life and Follow

“Then said Jesus unto His disciples if any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). There were thousands of people following the Lord Jesus because He performed miracles and gave them to eat

when they were hungry. Very often people were crowding around Him but then He threw at them this challenge. In simple words, this is what the Lord Jesus said, “If you want to be my disciple you must be prepared to die. You must stop thinking what you can get from me. You must take up your cross that is, all your troubles, trials, burdens, and the reproach you receive because of my name and follow me”. Remember that the Christian’s calling is a call to suffer. Paul tells Timothy that he should “Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2Timothy 2:3). It is said that a man walking with a cross on his shoulders is not expected to come back alive. The Cross is an instrument of death. It may seem strange that the Lord Jesus said “you must take up your cross and follow me”. Many people today tend to connect the Lord Jesus with earthly blessings and prosperity. They think if they believe on the Lord Jesus, they could receive all what they want. Even Christian preachers nowadays encourage their listeners to think the prosperity way. They say that if you please God, you will receive everything you want. Some even say “Write what you want in a piece of paper and send it to me, I will pray for you, and you will receive it.” This is quite contrary to the challenge that was put forward by the Lord Jesus to His disciples. He wanted His disciples to deny themselves and follow Him. Let us not be selfish Christians. Our calling is to become selfless Christians.

Make sure that you have Steady Steps in your Christian walk. The Lord Jesus gives us steady steps. It is the second blessing that the Lord gives us according to the Psalm 121:3.

Chapter 3

Peace

Verses 3 and 4 of Psalm 121 reveal to us an important attribute of God. That attribute is the never failing watchfulness over his people. **“He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor sleep”**. This verse brings us much comfort and assurance. God, according to this verse takes the place of a watchman. Wealthy families employ a security guard to look after their wealth, house and property. These security guards have to break rest through the night to protect the families who employ them. When the members of the family know that the security guard is faithful, they sleep peacefully at night. This is the blessing we receive from a faithful security guard. This restful sleep speaks to us of deep peace. David who was surrounded by distress and hounded by the enemy said something remarkable in Psalm 4:8 “I will both lay me down in peace and sleep for thou LORD only makest me dwell in safety”. This peace and sleep came to him because of the assurance he had of the watchman’s duty of his God. So peace is the third blessing that we receive from the LORD who made the heaven and the earth. Do you have true heavenly peace in your heart?

The Bible speaks to us of three kinds of peace. Peace with God, Peace of God, and Peace with man. Many people today seek after peace. They say ‘I have no peace in my heart please help me to obtain the same’. What they mean is that they do not have the peace of God. Little do they realise that they need peace WITH God before they can have peace OF God. The Bible says that we are enemies of God because of our sin. But God in His love had made a provision to abolish this enmity through the death of His son. “For if, when we

were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10). And this is what the Lord Jesus did when he hung on the cross. He took the sinful hand of man and the Holy hand of God and brought them together. If you are lacking in peace your primary need may be peace WITH God. You can establish this peace by confessing your sinfulness before God and receiving the Lord Jesus into your heart as your Lord and Saviour. Once you establish your peace WITH GOD in that manner, you will experience the peace OF GOD in your heart. The Lord Jesus wants us to have perfect peace in our heart.

The Bible speaks to us of seven kinds of peace we can experience as believers. These also are the seven tests of peace. Please check if you have this kind of peace.

- 1) **PERFECT PEACE** – “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee” (Isaiah 26:3). An alternative translation to perfect peace, given in the margin is “peace peace”. This is the kind of peace God wants to give us. It is an ever-abiding peace. This comes to us through the assurance of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. When you trust the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, He will give you perfect peace.
- 2) **GREAT PEACE** – “Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165). This verse speaks to us of the peace we derive from reading the scriptures. Could you truly say that you love the Word of God? In Psalm 1 the Lord speaks to us of the blessedness of the man who meditates on scriptures day and night. Believers must overcome the sin of day-dreaming. Instead, we must meditate on the Word of God. “My soul hath kept thy testimonies and I love them exceedingly” (Psalm 119:167). “How sweet are Thy words unto my taste, yea

sweeter than honey to my mouth" (Psalm 119:103). So if we love the Word of God then we could have great peace in our hearts. The Word of God provides us with answers to all our life's problems. We should be regular readers of the scripture. Do you have your own bible? If not please get one today and begin to read it every day. Then God will begin to speak to your heart and you will experience great peace.

- 3) **ABUNDANCE OF PEACE** – "Behold I bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth" (Jeremiah 33:6). Whatever God gives us, He gives us in abundance. Man does not know how to give in abundance. In John 14:27 the Lord Jesus says "Peace I leave with you..... not as the world giveth, give I unto you". He gives us abundance of peace. Some people have peace only when their circumstances are favourable. Some Christians loose their peace when someone utters one word or two against them. They begin to worry over what others have said about them. Some even go into depression. Such believers could not say that they have abundance peace. We must learn to claim Jeremiah 33:6 for our lives on a daily basis. We must pray saying, "Lord please reveal to me the abundance of peace that Thou hast promised". Nothing can penetrate or disturb this God given abundant peace.
- 4) **OVERFLOWING PEACE** – "O that thou hast hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace be like a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea" (Isaiah 48:18). This is an important aspect of the peace God gives us. In this verse, God says that His peace in us is like a river. Wherever it flows, a river will bring life. A river will reach to distant places bringing blessing. God will fill our hearts with peace, which will overflow to others. This is how believers become peacemakers. Firstly, we help people to make their peace with God. Secondly, we

influence people to make peace with one another. Can you truly say that you have overflowing peace? Have those around you felt that overflowing peace is in you? Thousands of people have been blessed by the hymn “When peace like a river attendeth my soul” written by Spafford Horatio. He wrote this wonderful hymn when he had lost his son to Yellow fever and four daughters in a shipwreck. He is a beautiful example of a believer who had overflowing peace. His peace overflowing in the form of a hymn has blessed many. It is in time of sorrow and distress this overflowing peace of yours can bless others. Please ask the Lord to give you that overflowing peace.

- 5) **PEACE WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING** – “Be careful for nothing; in everything by prayer and by supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6, 7). This peace comes to us through prayer. Many believers unfortunately choose worrying instead of prayer. In this verse, God tells us to choose prayer instead of worrying. “Peace which passeth all understanding” means peace that is not humanly possible. Prayer is a wonderful provision of God to His people. We think about prayer in relation to our own needs. But through this verse He tells us our prayer brings us much more blessing than the meeting of our need. Long before we receive His answer to our prayer He gives us “peace which passeth all understanding.” In the well known hymn “What a friend we have in Jesus” we sing thus. “...Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer”. Yes, it is the peace of God we forfeit when we do not pray. Sometimes God may not give us what we ask for but instead He gives us peace that passeth all understanding. This is a unique experience of a praying Christian.

God may not extend the life of the loved one for whom you are praying but God will fill your heart with His peace. Please remember our peace does not depend on God granting our request. Rather, it depends on our praying. If you have not experienced this peace which passeth all understanding then you have not truly prayed. Present day popular Christianity does not see this valuable truth and encourages believers to believe that God is willing to give whatsoever you may ask. Prayer is seen as a means by which our selfish goals could be achieved. God's Christianity offers you peace which passeth understanding through prayer.

- 6) **PEACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** – “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Not as the world giveth, give I unto you” (John 14:27). I consider this verse to be the most important verse on peace. The Lord Jesus promises to give us HIS PEACE. Do you know anything about His peace? That is the peace which is found in the heart of the Lord Jesus. That peace has come to Him through His knowledge of all things and His sovereignty. He knows the end from the beginning. So He has no worry. He has ordained everything. He Himself has taken all the decisions. He has no competitor. He is not challenged by anybody. He has no enemy who is powerful enough to defeat Him. So He has total and absolute peace. The wonder of wonders is that He is willing to give us that peace. We cannot fully contain that peace in our hearts. But still He says that He will give us His peace. So let us pray in simple faith, “Lord I want your peace, I do not want any other peace, I want the peace that is in your heart”. Beloved, this peace comes to us through the knowledge of God's plan and programme for this world. That plan is revealed to us in the Bible. Details from the creation in the beginning of history to creation of new heaven and new earth at the end of history are given in the Bible. If we fully believe them then we

begin to experience His peace. Let us begin to look at this world from God's perspective. That will result in our hearts been filled with His peace.

- 7) **RULING PEACE** – “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you are called in one body; be ye thankful” (Colossians 3:15). This verse speaks to us of ruling peace. This peace comes to us when we surrender our lives totally to the Lord. As long as we run our own lives God's peace cannot rule in our lives. Can you truly say with the hymn writer that you have surrendered all to the Lord Jesus? *“All to Jesus I surrender, now I feel the sacred flame, oh the joy of full salvation glory, glory to His name”*. There is much disturbance in our lives today. This is due to lack of ruling peace. Surrender your life to Christ so that you may experience ruling peace.

Chapter 4

Shade

“The Lord is thy keeper: The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shalt not smite thee by day nor the moon by night” (Psalm 121:5, 6). Sun strokes and Moon strokes were real dangers faced by the people who lived in desert regions. Very often, that meant death. When God promised to protect His people from both these attacks, it was a precious promise to the people of God. Even today many people die of Sun stroke. In the above verse the Lord promises to be our shade. The people of Israel literally experience the Lord as their shade from the dangers of Sun and Moon strokes. To us today this applies in a spiritual sense. The Lord Jesus becomes our Shade in this Godless, hostile world.

Heat of the Sun speaks to us of the hostility of the world against the believers. Please read Matthew 13:5, 6, 20, and 21. In the Parable of the Sower the Sun that scorched the plant was the tribulation or the persecution, which arose because of the Christian testimony. All believers have to face persecution because of their testimony. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2Tim 3:12). “In the world you shall have tribulation” said the Lord Jesus (John 16:33). During a time of such tribulation the Lord Himself will become our shade. This is another great blessing we receive from God who created the heavens and the earth. “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1). At the time of persecution, we believers must learn to live under the shadow of the Almighty. All over the world persecution against believers are on the increase. It is the Lord who could cover us and take us through in

such times. “The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand” should be a precious promise to each of us.

As those who are under the shadow of the Almighty, what would our response be to persecution? A three-fold response could be suggested for believers who are being persecuted.

1) Lean on the Lord

When we are persecuted as believers, we must always remember that the Lord has told us beforehand that such things will happen. In fact the Lord Jesus has asked us to “rejoice and be exceeding glad” when we are being persecuted for His Name sake (Matthew 5:12). Further more he has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Let us believe this word in times of persecution.

Having gone through a time of persecution this is what the Psalmist said. “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say; if it not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: then they had swallowed us up quickly when their wrath was kindled against us” (Psalms 124:1-3). In this scripture portion the words “the Lord who was on our side” comes twice. When others are against you, the Lord is on your side. He is closer to you than any other time. So then, lean on Him. Lean hard on Him. Thousands of Christians the world over have gone through severe persecution victoriously because they learnt to lean on the Lord. There is nothing else we could do in times of persecution. Appealing to authorities, the governments, and human rights organizations may not always bring expected relief. Our Lord is our refuge. He is our hiding place. When we are persecuted, we must think of Him, our Lord Jesus who “endured such contradiction of sinners” (Hebrew 12:3). Please do not open your mind to other suggestions. Walk very close to the Lord Jesus. Let His vision fill your eyes. Lean

against the bosom of the Lord Jesus. Remember and be warned that the sinister purpose of the devil in bringing physical persecution is to break our spiritual walk with the Lord. So do not be deceived. The Lord is on your side.

2) Love the persecutor

Loving the enemy is what Christ is known for, all over the world. Even the non-Christians know that Jesus taught His disciples to love their enemies. We His disciples should practice what He taught. A believer has no right to hate a persecutor. If we want to be called a Christian then we should be like Christ. He forgave His persecutors on the cross.

“But I say unto you, love your enemy, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hurt you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Remember not to take any other course of action when they persecute you. Did you notice the commandments given in that verse concerning the persecutor? LOVE, BLESS, DO GOOD AND PRAY. It is amazing what the Lord has instructed us to do. This is our answer to persecution. “If you Persecute us more we will love you more, bless you more, do more good and pray more for you” should be our response to persecution. Those who give any other response are not truly Christ like. If we do not love our enemies, we are not worthy to be called Christians. We must never harbour hatred in our hearts. Stephen the first Martyr of the church could truly say that he had the spirit of Christ. While being stoned to death, he cried with a loud voice, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge” (Acts 7:16). This indeed is a difficult thing to do. Nevertheless nothing less than this will be approved by our Master.

3) Look for the Reward

“Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My names sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is thy REWARD in heaven” (Matthew 5:11, 12). It is this promise that will help us go through persecution joyfully. The Lord Jesus has always encouraged us to look for the reward. “Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12). “Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as much as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1Corinthians 15:58). Furthermore the Bible says that “If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him” (2Timothy 2:12). So always remember that if you are being persecuted for His names sake, God is preparing you for reigning with Christ.

“The Sun shall not smite thee by day, nor Moon by night” does not mean that He is going to take the Sun and the Moon away but only the ill effect of them will be taken away. The heat of the Sun will continue to be there. But it cannot strike you dead. The spiritual meaning of this is clear. Though the persecutor is active, the ill effect of the persecution will not be able to defeat you. He is our shade to protect us from the heat of the persecution.

Chapter 5

Sanctity

“The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul” (Psalm 121:7). We know that as believers God has called us to lead a holy life. Prior to becoming believers, we had a sinful way of living. It is with the help of the Holy Spirit of God that we could get accustomed to holy living. We should learn to “Lay aside the sin that so easily beset us” (Hebrews 12:1). This indeed is a difficult task. Many Christians are discouraged today because they thought, holy living will come their way automatically. It is wrong for us to expect God to do everything in keeping us holy and for us to do nothing. His promise to preserve our soul from all evil depends on our readiness and willingness. Do you desire to lead a sanctified life? Then God will give you such a life. Every believer has one common enemy and that is the devil. He continues to tempt us all throughout our life. But remember God has promised to help us overcome every temptation of the enemy. On the day I was born again and became a Christian I was asked to memorise and believe 1Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as common to man, but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it”. It is an important thing for each believer to know how to face temptation and overcome it. The question ‘how to deal with temptation?’ could be

answered in three simple words. Those three words are prayer, precaution, and promise.

Prayer

Can you remember the model prayer of the Lord Jesus given to the disciples? The last line of that prayer goes like this. “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13). According to this verse, the Lord wants us to ask the Father not to lead us into temptation. Many of us have forgotten this prayer. No wonder that we succumb to temptation and commit sin. The Lord Jesus considered this prayer such an important thing that He included it in the model prayer. It is absolutely necessary that we talk to God about the temptations we face. This is the first step towards victory. God is not going to be angry with you when you talk about the temptations you face. In fact you need to identify your temptation and ask God to strengthen you against your temptation. A common sin among Christians is to pretend that there is no temptation. Very often Christian leaders and preachers fall into this category. The person who pretends not to have temptations may also pretend not to have sinned, when in fact he has fallen into sin. Remember it is by talking to the Lord about your temptations, you can be better prepared when it actually comes.

Precaution

You may have heard the saying “prevention is better than cure”. It is the same in Spiritual life also. A Christian believer needs to be watchful and avoid situations where he could be tempted. Most Christians make the mistake of walking into the trap of the devil fully well knowing that there is one ahead of them. We cannot prevent a crow flying over our head. But one could definitely prevent a crow making a nest on the head. Very often we get tempted by what we

see. Remember there again you cannot help the first look but definitely, you could prevent the second look. The Lord Jesus wants to give us sanctity. So when we take preventive measures He will do the rest. Take the example of a drunkard who has now been saved and does not take liquor. Suppose his house can be approached by two roads. One has a tavern on the way. Which road he should use to reach his home? He should avoid the tavern road completely. If not he could be tempted to take liquor when he passes by the tavern. Remember what Joseph did when he was confronted with a terrible temptation brought by Potiphar's wife. The Bible says that he ran out of the room. It is important for us not only to flee sin but also to flee temptation. There are books, magazines, or newspapers, which will bring temptations. If you want to prevent temptations then put them out of your house and destroy them. Paul advised Timothy to "Flee youthful lust" (2Timothy 2:22). The word flee meant that Timothy should not even be in a place where he was tempted.

Promise

Our sanctity as a believer does not depend on our strength but on promises of God. God has promised to show us a way of escape when we are tempted. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1Corinthians10:13). Every believer must believe this precious promise of God. First, this verse tells us that the temptation that we face is not a unique one. Other believers have already faced similar temptations. So, none of us can say that our temptation was greater than others so that we could not help falling into sin. The second thing we learn from this verse is that even in the midst of severe temptation, God is faithful and He is by our side. He has promised us "Never to leave us nor forsake us" (Hebrews13:5). Remember that when temptation comes, the Lord does not leave you. You are not facing the temptation alone. When

Satan knocks at the door we must ask the Lord Jesus to answer it. The third lesson this verse teaches us is that with the temptation God will also make a way of escape. We need to believe this promise. If there is, a temptation there is a way of escape also. We must look out for that way. When you are hedged in by temptation look out for that way of escape that God provides for you. If you take that way, you can escape temptation. It is when we refuse to take that way of escape that we fall into sin. Believe the promise of God and you will always be in the victory. “The Lord preserve thee from all evil” (Psalm 121:7).

Chapter 6

Security

“The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in” (Psalm 121: 8). This is the sixth help or the blessing we receive from the Lord. We are always under the watchful eye of our God and He has taken over the responsibility of looking after us. When VIPs of any country go out on the road there is so much of security placed all around them. It is the duty of the security contingent to see that the VIP is safe at all times. We have seen as to how careful they are when it comes to the security of the President of the country. If a President is to visit a particular city or town, the security persons will go there one week earlier. Though we are not great people like VIPs, God has promised to preserve our going out and our coming in. God has the largest army in this universe at His command. There is an innumerable company of angels who is ready to do His bidding. Hence, there is no one who can protect us better than God. We have seen how at times human security fails resulting in the death of VIPs. But none can penetrate the security provided by God to His people. We must believe that God is able to provide us with perfect security.

David was a man who had to hide away from King Saul to protect his life for several years. At times, he lived in a cave. On other occasions, he lived in the wilderness. Another time his hiding place was an old fortress. Through his exercise of trying

to protect himself in these places, he came to the realisation that his true security was in the hand of God. Later he was able to say that God was his perfect security. In Psalm 18, we have the words that David spoke when God had delivered him from all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my Strength, in whom will I trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2). In this verse, David uses 7 words to describe God. All seven names speak to us about the security and protection that God gave to David during his years of hiding away from Saul. David said these words out of his own experience. He was able to say truthfully, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress.” If you may please meditate on the seven descriptions of God given by David, you would be able to understand some thing of the perfect security that God provides.

Firstly, David says, “The Lord is my ROCK”. The rock speaks to us of stability and strength. No one was able to attack David when he was taking cover behind a rock. We must experience God as our rock. Our enemies cannot reach us because of God. When David stood on the rock, he was fearless as a lion. If we have the Lord Jesus as our rock, we also will be fearless. Though people may scheme against us to do us harm they will fail because we are on the Rock the Lord Jesus Christ. In our culture, we find many people are afraid of evil powers. But the believer has no such fears. The word of God says “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1John 4:4). So we shall never be afraid of any evil power.

Secondly, David describes God as “my FORTRESS” (Psalm 18:2). In ancient days, the fortress was an essential part of military defence. Kings took much care in building fortresses. When David was being pursued by King Saul 1Samuel 23:14 says that he dwelt in the strongholds of wilderness. The stronghold or a fortress makes it difficult for the enemy to approach you. While dwelling in the stronghold, David would have thought about his true stronghold, which was God. As believers, we must know that in Christ we are safe. The expression “in Christ” occurs so many times in the book of Ephesians. In Christ, we are safe both spiritually and physically. No king will be foolish to come out of his fortress when there is danger. We must learn to abide in our fortress. Though our relatives, neighbours, or outsiders plan to do us harm because we belong to the Lord Jesus we must not get disturbed but abide in our fortress the Lord Jesus. We should never try to fight back or take revenge. What the enemy wants is to take us out of our fortress and to make us rely on our own strength.

Thirdly, in Psalm 18:2 David says that God was his DELIVERER. Many a time David got into trouble because of his foolish acts. But God delivered him out of every situation. Once he found himself in the camp of his enemy because of his own foolishness. To escape from King Saul he went into the territory of King Achish the Palestine. That was a big mistake in his life. When David found himself caught in the clutches of king Achish, he decided to act as a mad man. This story is written in 1Samuel 21. But God in His mercy delivered David out of the hands of Achish. After this experience of deliverance, he wrote Psalm 34. Psalm 34:4 says “I sought the Lord and He

heard me and delivered me from all my fears”. Again, in verse 7 he says “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them”. We as Gods people must experience His deliverance. Firstly, he delivers us from our sinful nature. Then he delivers us from physical harm and danger though we get into such difficult situations due to our own foolishness. In Psalm, 124:7 David further speaks on Gods deliverance. “Our soul is escaped as a bird of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped”. Enemy sets different kind of traps to catch God’s people. It may come in the form of a marriage proposal or a business partnership or an unholy alliance. Because of their desire to earn money some believers, get into business partnership with non-believers. In a short while, they realise that they have made a mistake. Later they find it extremely difficult to escape that situation. God has to deliver them. We all make such mistakes in our lives. But the Lord in His great mercy delivers us again and again.

Fourthly, he calls the Lord “my GOD.” This expression brings before us the most important truth about our salvation. Many people in the world believe in God and generally call upon God for help. But only the Christian believer can say He is my God. John 1:12 the Bible says “But as many as received him, (Jesus Christ) to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name”. This thought is made clearer in Galatians 3:26. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”. It is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God you can become a child of God. Only if you have that experience and then only, you can call God “my God”. David’s experience with God was so close that he was able to call God in

such a way. David was later described as a man after God's own heart. When the Lord Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Thomas who doubted, he immediately called the Lord Jesus as "my Lord and my God". Mary Magdalene who was crying near the sepulchre said, "They have taken away MY Lord". Paul says in Galatians 2:20 "I live by faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me". Can you also honestly say that the Lord Jesus Christ is your God? Then and only then, you will have perfect security. You must be able to call the Lord Jesus as your PERSONAL Lord and Saviour.

Fifthly, David calls God "my BUCKLER or my SHIELD". David was a man of war and knew the value of the shield in times of war. The shield will protect you from the fiery darts of the enemy. Ephesians 6:16 speak to us of the "taking of the shield of faith". It is the privilege of the believer to have the shield of faith. Now please see what God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:1. "After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abraham in a vision saying, fear not Abraham; I am thy SHIELD, and thy exceeding great reward". This was a wonderful promise to Abraham. God says that He Himself will be a shield to Abraham. Abraham had just finished a battle with four kings and he had refused the wealth of Sodom, which was given to him as a gift. God must have been delighted to see the faithfulness of His servant. So the Lord appears to him in a vision and declares "I am your shield and I am your exceeding great reward". What more else could we ask of God? He is there to protect us as our shield. Some believers are worried thinking that others may harm them. They are even suspicious of their fellow believers thinking that they will harm them. If

we believe that God is our shield then we do not have to entertain such fears or suspicions. Remember the promise given in Isaiah 54:17. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn.” By believing such promises, we could prove that God is our shield.

Sixthly, David says that God is his “HORN OF SALVATION”. It is rather a peculiar description of God. Ancient days the Horn was the sign of power and strength. In the Bible, the word “horn” is used frequently. An animal with large horns is always strong and powerful. Nobody dares to go near such an animal. Large horns are the strength and the pride of the animal. When David says that the Lord is the horn of his salvation he speaks to us of the divine strength and the boasting we have as a result of our salvation. If we were to be saved by any other means other than the Lord Jesus, we would not have been able to say such a thing. It is the Son of God who has accomplished our salvation. So He is able to lead us whom He has saved into a victorious life and thereafter to glory. As the horn of our salvation, He provides us with divine strength to fight all our life’s battles. This is how Paul was able to say, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Our Lord Jesus is the secret of our divine strength. In Isaiah 41:10 God says, “I will strengthen thee”. This strengthening work is carried on in our inner man and it is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. This was what Paul prayed for, concerning Ephesian believers. “That, He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16). It is because of this strengthening work

that we could face persecution or any other difficulties as believers. When the Lord called me for His service, I was wondering as to how I would face the opposition of my family because they expected me to take up a job as a Marine Engineer. When I conveyed my decision to my parents, both of them were very sad and began to cry. It was a real heartache to see them cry. Some other relatives of mine were very angry at my decision. They tried their best by threats and other means to dissuade me from obeying the Lord. At that time, I prayed "Lord strengthen me to face this opposition". Lord fulfilled His promise and strengthened me to obey His voice. As food for the body, the Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God to give us divine strength. Those who receive divine strength from the Lord Jesus could truly say that the Lord is "the Horn of my salvation".

Seventhly, David says the Lord is his "HIGH TOWER" (Psalm 18:2). During David's time high towers were used for two purposes. Firstly, it was the ultimate place of security for kings. Secondly, the high tower was used by the watchman to spot the enemy afar off. Either way, high tower, speaks to us of the protection and the security God could give. The Lord is our high tower in that, that when we are in Him we see the enemy afar off. In 2 Corinthians 2:11, Paul says that we are not ignorant of the wicked devices of the devil. The Lord gives us a warning in time that we may not be caught in the snares of the devil. When some unbelieving relation or friend brings to us an attractive suggestion, the Spirit of God would immediately warn us of the impending danger. That was how David escaped from the hand of the enemy many a time. He had to depend on the

Lord to get all his directions for all his movements. David had the habit of asking the Lord “Lord should I go or not?” before he ventured out. Even in going out to battle, he sought clear directions from the Lord. That is why he was later able to say that the Lord was his high tower. Please pray in your heart and say “Lord I want you to be my high tower”. The devil is always trying to make young believers become useless in Gods service by luring them to make a wrong decision. That is why as young believers we must learn to seek guidance from the Lord. We must learn to hear His voice through the Word of God. “Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying this is the way walk ye in it when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21). The Lord Jesus is the best person to guide us because He knows the end from the beginning. He sees everything from afar off. It is the privilege of the believer to have the Lord Jesus as His high tower.

This is how the Lord gives us true security. This is the sixth help or blessing that we receive from the Lord according to Psalm 121.

Sure and Certain Hope

Psalm 121 ends with a wonderful promise of God, which points us to the eternal future. “**The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even FOR EVERMORE**” (Psalm121:8). The word ‘forevermore’ points us to eternal future. God is promising us to preserve us forever and ever. A Christian believer has a glorious future. God who lives in eternity protects and preserves us for ever and ever. Only a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has a hope for the future. Whenever the word ‘eternity’ comes our way we are reminded of the glorious hope, we have in Christ Jesus. That glorious hope is also called the ‘sure and certain hope’(Hebrews 6:18-20). If you do not have this sure and glorious hope, you are in a pitiable condition. In contrast, the believer has a bright future to look forward to. What are you looking forward to in the eternal future? The word for evermore in Psalm121 speaks to us of this Hope of glory, which we have in Christ Jesus. The Bible speaks to us of a sevenfold Hope of glory of a believer.

Hope of His coming

John 14:3 says “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” This is the hope of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the above verse, the Lord Jesus Christ clearly promises us that He is going to come again to receive us unto Himself. Today very many Christians are confused about the

second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is mainly because different preachers giving different opinion on the subject. But all what we have to do is simply believe the word of God. He says He is coming to take us away and we must believe and accept it. Remember, the Lord Jesus Christ warned that He would come at a time when no one is expecting Him. “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man cometh”(Matthew 24:42). Another description of His coming is given in 1Thessalonians 4:13-17. “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” To those who would like to simply believe the word of God this statement is clear enough. So this is the first hope of glory that a child of God has. Are you looking forward to meeting the Lord face to face?

Hope of meeting with all the saints

The second hope of glory is found in 1Thessalonians 4:14. “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.” This verse makes it clear that we are going to meet with the believers who have gone before us to heaven. This is a wonderful hope we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Just think of all the great saints who have served the Lord and now are with the Lord. We are going to meet all of them. We are going to see them face-to-face. What a wonderful experience that will be! For believers there are no eternal good byes. Death is only a temporary separation. At the

coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be reunited never to be separated again.

Hope of Rapture

The third hope of glory is mentioned in 1Thessalonians 4:17. That is the hope of rapture or being caught up. “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”. This is going to be the greatest experience that anyone can have. When the Lord Jesus comes to the clouds the believers who are alive on the earth will be suddenly transformed and begin to rise upwards to the clouds to meet the Lord. Today if you want to fly in the sky, you need to go by an aeroplane or helicopter. But on that day you will be amazingly able to rise defying the laws of gravity. This is called the rapture of the saints. When this happens suddenly believers will be missing from the face of the earth. Our hearts must be filled with this hope of glory.

Hope of being transformed into His likeness

The fourth hope of glory is given to us in 1John 3:2. “Beloved now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when He shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see Him as He is”. According to this verse, we are all going to receive a glorious body very much like the resurrected body of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be reflecting His heavenly glory. Did you notice in the gospels the characteristics of the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ? It was very different to a physical body. It was a visible body but could be invisible at any time. It did not need food but could eat if necessary as the Lord Jesus did after the resurrection. This

glorious body could travel any distance in a second. That body could be touched but it could also go through a closed door. These characteristics show us that this glorious body is not governed by the laws of nature. Remember that we are going to have such a body one day. Then we shall be like Him.

The hope of public proclamation as sons and daughters of God

In Jude 24, we have a reference to what is going to happen at the end of this age. That is the public proclamation and the presentation of the sons and daughters of God. “Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and to PRESENT you faultless before His glory with exceeding joy....”. According to this verse, God will present each one of us before the presence of His glory. Romans 8:19 says the whole creation is waiting with earnest expectation until that day. “For, the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God”. Today we are insignificant in the eyes of this world. But on that day God is going to show His glory to the whole universe through you and me. Even angels will admire us. They will begin to see the wisdom of God in transforming us into the likeness of His Son. So this is an important aspect of our hope of glory.

Hope of heavenly reward

In Revelation 22:12 the Lord speaks to us of the next hope of glory. “And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according to his work shall be”. The Lord Jesus has given us a promise of a reward. This gives us great encouragement in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. When we were

small children, I had an uncle who used to bring sweets for us whenever he came to visit us. So whenever he comes we always looked at his hands before we looked at his face. We wanted to make sure that he had brought sweets for us. In Revelations 22:12 the Lord Jesus is saying that He is bringing His reward with Him. Are we looking forward to that reward? That reward is not according to the amount of work we have done but according to our faithfulness. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not as unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Jesus Christ” (Colossians 3:23,24). The Lord is preparing a reward for you and for me. This is part of our hope of glory.

Hope of reigning with Christ

This is the grandest hope of a believer. “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the Sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and THEY SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER” (Revelations 22:5). Do you believe this verse with all your heart? If you are a believer in Christ, you are destined to the throne. Men of this world will know nothing of these heavenly truths. They live only for this world. They have no idea of what is to come in eternity. The Lord Jesus is going to share His reign with His simple believers. Every kingdom on this earth will come to an end. But the children of God will reign forever and ever. The Lord Jesus said “Fear not little flock; for it is your Fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke12:32). You may be poor and illiterate but remember if you are faithful to the Lord Jesus; the Father is going to give you the kingdom.

Conclusion

In this book we have briefly considered the sevenfold help or blessing that we receive from the Lord who made the heaven and the earth. If you believe them you could truly say with the Psalmist **“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth”.**