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Psalm 123

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 123.

Topics.

- I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens.
- A word of comfort for those suffering hardships, trials and grief.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 123:1-4

A Song of Ascents.

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I lift up My Eyes, O You who are Enthroned in the Heavens.

- **Psalm 123:1-4:** To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! 2Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid servant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. 3Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. 4Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Ascents: means a climactic progression or journey to a higher place it carries the idea of a thought arising.

The writer of this Psalm speaks on behalf of the nation of Israel, though it could apply to any of God's servants in similar circumstances. It appears Israel is in bondage or captivity to their prideful enemies who while living in comfort and ease are treating God's servants with contempt and scorn so much so that God's servants cry out to God and tell Him they cannot take anymore and ask Him to show them mercy. God's servants say they look to God as a servant looks to his master, and as a maid looks to her mistress, meaning in submissiveness and humility they look to God as the ultimate ruler of their lives and circumstances (v2). As terrible as the servants in this Psalm felt they did not doubt the majesty of God (O you who are enthroned in the heavens) or that He is their LORD. No matter how bad their life became it did not affect their faith in God, but it did change the way they understood God to be dealing with them, but not the fact that God was their LORD and their Master and they His servants. The lives of Old Testament believers were sometimes full of extreme suffering, poverty, anguish but it did not affect their faith in the reality of God or their love for Him or His love for them, but it did change how they perceived God to be moulding and shaping them. There is no actual answer to the cry of the servants of God in this Psalm; they simply say

they will look to the LORD their God, until He has mercy upon them. There could be many times during the Old Testament God answered this prayer, (i.e. the Exodus, the many battles of Israel, their deliverance from Babylon's captivity etc.). In this Psalm the enemies of God's people were living in ease, they had homes, jobs healthy families and life was good, while God's people were suffering under their hand. Christians today in certain circumstances can feel exactly as the servants of this Psalm did, friends, work associates, family or just the world itself often scorns and mocks a person for their Christian faith or while their neighbour who gives no thought for God is prospering they may be struggling with the difficulties of life, they may cry for mercy and God may answer, but the ultimate answer to this prayer will be when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and all those who love God are resurrected to eternal life and a world of righteousness, justice, joy and everlasting happiness and peace.

A WORD OF COMFORT FOR THOSE SUFFERING HARDSHIPS, TRIALS AND GRIEF

The apostle Peter wrote:

- Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:5-10).
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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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