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Psalm 125

(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 125.

Topics.

- Mountains surround Jerusalem; the LORD surrounds His people.
- Do-good, O LORD, to those who are good, but lead evildoers away.
- A warning to all earth-dwellers and doing-good.
- Love your neighbour as yourself
- Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount.

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)

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PSALM 125:1-2

A Song of Ascents of David.

Mountains Surround Jerusalem, the LORD Surrounds His People.

- **Psalm 125:1-2:** Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. ²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

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

Zion comes from the Hebrew word (*Tsiyown*) and refers to the mountain the city of Jerusalem is built upon. It carries the idea of a permanent capital mountain of Jerusalem in the sense of being readily seen and easily visible and noticed as an important sign (i.e., a significant and historic sign and guiding pillar). It is called God's Holy Mountain because Jerusalem God's Holy City sits on it.

Though Mount Zion is not distinguished for its elevation or grandeur and though it has nothing in itself to claim attention or to excite wonder, it is the most exalted and honoured above all mountains because it was selected as the place where God was to be worshipped and the place where God's city and God's temple was built and God's worship is established. Even though Mount Sinai had all the awesome glory of the Almighty God descend upon it and the law came from there, Mount Zion excels in excellence over it. This is because from Mount Zion came the Messiah the Christ attended by a multitude of angels celebrating his birth and on Mount Zion the Messiah the Christ came into his own temple as Malachi in the following verse prophesied concerning him.

- Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 3:1).

Added to all this royal glory, multitudes of angels ministered to the Lord in his temptation, at his resurrection and accompanied him in his ascension all from Mount Zion.

- Mount Sinai is the mountain of the Old Covenant of Law in contrast Mount Zion is the mountain of the New Covenant of Grace.
- Mount Sinai's glory of the law pales when stood before Mount Zion's grace and Christ's death and resurrection upon it.

Neither Mount Sinai nor Mount Zion can glory and boast in themselves for the following reasons. Mount Sinai is not famous or respected as a holy mountain and a mountain of God because of any majesty of itself, but because it was upon this mountain God descended and gave the Ten Commandments. It is this awesome and holy event that exalts Mount Sinai and not the mountain itself. Likewise Mount Zion has no fame or glory of itself, its glory comes from being the honoured mountain God chose to build His Holy city upon and is the mountain that the Messiah the Christ the Saviour of the world died and rose again from. The real strength is not in Mount Zion itself, but in the Lord, who is the head of the thousands of chariots and the heavenly host surrounding it and as such is the protector of his chosen dwelling-place. Zion is sometimes used as an ancient name for Jerusalem itself and because it is often used in poetic and prophetic passages it can refer to:

- The hill the city of Jerusalem is built on.
- The city of Jerusalem.
- The temple and by extension Judah and the people of God.

PSALM 125:3-5

Do-Good, O LORD, to the Good, But Lead Evildoers Away.

- **Psalm 125:3-5:** For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong. ⁴Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts! ⁵But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

This Psalm primarily applies to Israel, David tells them if they do-good God will bless them and the wicked will not have power over them, but if they turn away from God to their evil ways the LORD will withdraw His favour and they will be judged with the wicked. The only reason the people of Israel would have suffered trouble and distress is because they had acted corruptly before the LORD. This is because all Israel at Mount Sinai entered into a covenant of blessings and curses with the LORD. Providing Israel did what was right before the LORD and obeyed God's laws the covenant promised the people of Israel that: -

- They would be God's treasured possession and be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-8).
- God would prosper their health, their land, their homes, their farms, their livestock and all they put their hand to do and make them the head of all nations and not the tail.

But if Israel broke the covenant and turned to other gods to worship them the covenant promised the people of Israel that:

- God would bring all sorts of sicknesses and plaques upon them and their cities and their livestock and lay waste their land.

- God would bring ruin to their homes, their crops, their farms and all they put their hand to and had established and they would become the tail of all nations and not the head.

This means that if Israel obeyed the covenant and remained faithful to God, He would bless their health and materialistically bless them in every other way possible. No enemy would ever defeat them and everything they did would abundantly prosper. (The blessing and curses are in Deut. 28).

A WARNING TO ALL EARTH-DWELLERS

The fact God turns Israel's fruitful land into barren waste because of their wickedness should be a warning to all earth dwellers. It is a principal of God that the further mankind denies His existence and His ways the further He removes His hand of blessing and the more the earth and those who dwell upon it suffer. Today our schools teach our children evolution as a scientific truth and it denies the existence of God. Added to this, wars, rape, violence, murders and theft is common today, young teenage girls are sold as sex slaves amongst most nations world-wide and drugs are globally rampant. When mankind denies their creator and turns from His ways to do their own thing all creation and every living thing under the sun suffers.

Doing-good: the message of this Psalm is not limited to Israel only, but by extension has an application to everyone of all generations who loves God. David prays that God would do-good, but only to those who do-good. Jesus summed up the meaning of doing-good in the only two commandments that he gave his followers: -

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30).
2. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:31).

These two commandments are not only the greatest commandments in the entire Bible but also the greatest commandments under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts. Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ there is no other commandment more important than these two commandments. After loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the thing that delights Him the most is when those who belong to Christ are obeying his command to, "love your neighbour as yourself," (Matt. 22:39). To, "Love your neighbour as yourself," means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself.

James the brother of Jesus said:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).

- Jeremiah said: “Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights” (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

JESUS FAMOUS SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, “The Famous Sermon” because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who do all they can to love God with all their heart, mind and strength and love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:30-31) will hear the words of their Master, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” (Matt. 25:21). Love embraces patience and kindness; it does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things (contained in the Scriptures), hopes all things, and endures all things. At the moment faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these three is love (1 Cor. 13:4-7, 13). Against these there is no law or judgment because if we live by them we can only bring life and good to other humans.

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23).

The apostle John wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

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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