

Surrounded by Fear

read

Psalm 121

think

Our professor made us turn a full 360 degrees and describe the topography. Now a geography class may not sound exciting to you, but when the setting is Jerusalem the biblical text jumps to life. Professor Wright helped us see that the mountains surrounding Jerusalem all rise higher from the valley than the little hill on which we stood. Theologically the City of David, Mount Zion, is the highest point on earth, but topographically it's not even as tall as the mountains around it.

As a Psalm of Ascent, worshipers sang Psalm 121 entering the city for their annual festivals. Lifting their eyes to the hills they might think of the power of their Creator like we might think of purple mountains majesty. Or perhaps the worshipers would remember that "high places" can lead to idol worship. But the hills are also the pathways for invading armies. Imagine a city under siege with enemies all around. The cry of Psalm 121 for help highlights the desperation of God's people. There is no help except from the Lord. He is our Creator (v.2). He is our Protector (vv.3-6). He is our Savior (vv.7-8). Our very lives are protected by our Lord and he has proven his great love in sending his Son to rescue us. When we have nowhere else to turn, we have the only One we need. And we have him forever. God who watches over us at all times, even when we're surrounded by fear.

apply

- When have you experienced the beauty of creation? How does the reminder of God's provision help you today?
- What fears and uncertainties surround you? What biblical truths can help in times of fear?
- How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope right now? And for the future?

pray

O Lord, when I see the dangers all around I am tempted toward despair. Give me comfort through your Word in your protection and salvation. Help me to turn in hope to you, O God, my Creator and Rescuer. Grant me eternal hope through Jesus Christ, my Savior, Amen.

by Kevin Koslowsky

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