

PSALM 121: RESTING IN GOD

Sunday, August 7, 2022 — SABBATIC LEAVE — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Begin with some applications of the message of PSALM 121:

EITHER REAL OR PERCEIVED GLOBAL or SOCIETAL THREATS:

1) The threat of WORLD WAR.

- tantrums of totalitarian toddler Chairman Xi leading communist China threatening war
- the maniacal horror perpetrated by the despot Vladimir Putin on the people of Russia and Ukraine
- the threats on world energy sources and global destabilization from both of these dictators

2) The threat of TOTALITARIANISM -- loss of personal liberties.

- our own country's lurch toward totalitarianism as our federal and state governments overreached their constitutional authority sweeping away our personal liberties in response to terrorism or a pandemic.
- China's horrific draconian control of its people through their elaborate and advancing surveillance state, 'social credit' system, and mid-night death squads -- all for 'the public good'.

3) The threat of ECONOMIC COLLAPSE:

- Inflation, hyper-inflation, currency collapse, banking crash, stock market crash,

4) The threat of CIVIL WAR (or at least CIVIL UNREST):

- over political ideologies, moral ideologies, racial hatred or economic classes

5) The threat of MORAL COLLAPSE:

- News Flash: *It's already happened.* Destruction of marriage, collapse of the family, unbridled sexual immorality, exaltation of homosexuality, the utter insanity of transgenderism, the defense of abortion, rampant lawlessness,

6) The threat of DISEASE – personal or pandemic:

- COVID, Influenza, Bird Flu, Ebola, Monkey Pox, Small Pox, Cancer, Heart Disease, Morgellon's

7) The threat of PERSECUTION:

- Throughout the ages it is not uncommon but usual for God's people to be persecuted.

EITHER REAL OR PERCEIVED PERSONAL THREATS/CONCERNS:

1) Your own Health.

2) Your own Family. (your children??)

3) Your own Job/Career/Income.

4) Your own Future/Retirement.

5) Your own Loneliness.

6) Your own Poverty.

7) Your own Safety.

Most Profoundly --

The consideration of your life's meaning or significance.

The hope for your life's joy and fulfillment.

CRITICALLY IMPORTANT CONCEPTS FOR UNDERSTANDING PSALM 121:

Throughout God's Word we see that God is moving His people to look beyond the things that are seen to the things that are unseen...

- from the physical to the spiritual,
- from the temporary to the eternal,
- from the present to the future.

This can only happen through repentance toward God and faith in what He has said.

This Psalm is exclusively for God's people.

Written by David, for those 'going up' to Jerusalem.

PSALM 121

A Song of Ascents

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?*
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.*
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.*
- 8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.*

PSALM 121 Outline (MacArthur):

- I. God — our Helper** vs 1-2
- II. God — our Keeper** vs 3-4
- III. God — our Protector** vs 5-6
- IV. God — our Preserver** vs 7-8

Vs 1-2

God typically does a work IN us before He does a work THROUGH us.
(*I/my* is very personal before *your/you*)

God's help to us has unlimited power.
(*'Maker of heaven and earth'* vs 2)

Vs 3-4

'foot be moved' (*'stumbling'*) never refers in OT to physical falling but instead divine judgment or spiritual destruction.

God is *always* watching and working.

Vs 5-6

God shields his people from the greatest threats offered by a hostile, fallen world.
(scorching sun was feared, evil night was feared)

Vs 7-8

It is GOD'S perfect preservation (through His Messiah — Christ Jesus) that sees his people all the way through to eternity with Him.

Notice in all of these it is the Lord who delivers on his promises.

SEE THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE!

Jude 24 (closing doxology to Christians surrounded by deserters of Christ)
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

John 6:38-40

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 10:27-29

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Romans 8:35-39

*35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

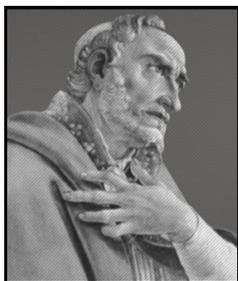
Ask yourself, 'Do I know that I know that I am one of God's people?'

If not, you can be — turn to him in repentance and faith.

If yes, remember, live and die in His promises.

For those who are HIS -- we are secure in Him, and therefore we can rest!

Psalm 37:7 *Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.*



Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
354-430 AD