

The SONGS OF ZION

DISCUSSION

"THE PSALMIST PRAISED GOD THAT BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN THEIR SALVATION AND THAT GOD WILL KEEP TEMPTATION FROM OVERWHELMING THEM. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED GOD'S PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THE LORD FAITHFULLY—OR LOSE HIS BLESSING BECAUSE THEY LIVED AS UNBELIEVERS DO. THIS PSALM OF ASCENT IS A COMMUNAL SONG OF CONFIDENCE AND A COMMUNAL LAMENT."

- MITCHELL DAHOOD, AMERICAN JESUIT HEBRAIST & BIBLE SCHOLAR

1. What is the point (or theme) of this psalm?

2. What is a psalm of ascent?

("The psalms of ascent received this title because the pilgrim Israelites sang them as they traveled from their homes all over the land and ascended Mt. Zion for the annual feasts.")

- Dr. Thomas Constable)

3. Why would the psalms of ascent be important to ancient Israelites?

4. Are there any traditions (or liturgies) that you or your family observe on special occasions (similarly to the pilgrim Israelites)? If so, explain to the group.

5. Is there a warning in this psalm? If so, what is that warning? Why is that warning important?

6. It has been said that "the good in us is God in us." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Does this psalm seem to imply that this statement is true or that the statement is false?

7. Is there anything else that stands out to you in this psalm that you would like to discuss?

PSALM 125 {ESV}

1 THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD ARE LIKE MOUNT ZION, WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED, BUT ABIDES FOREVER.

2 AS THE MOUNTAINS SURROUND JERUSALEM, SO THE LORD SURROUNDS HIS PEOPLE, FROM THIS TIME FORTH AND FOREVERMORE.

3 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.

4 DO GOOD, O LORD, TO THOSE WHO ARE GOOD, AND TO THOSE WHO ARE UPRIGHT IN THEIR HEARTS!

5 BUT THOSE WHO TURN ASIDE TO THEIR CROOKED WAYS THE LORD WILL LEAD AWAY WITH EVILDOERS! PEACE BE UPON ISRAEL!

