

Psalm 125

Spanish rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra (1089-1164) and others place this psalm in the Days of Messiah, when Jerusalem will be safe and prosperous, and the wicked consumed. Remember that this psalm is sung while going up to Jerusalem during the pilgrimage feasts.

Psalm 125:1 - "They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

"forever" = *olam* - eternity, the vanishing point.

Targum - "the righteous that trust in the Word of the Lord"

Zion = "parched place"

- **Isaiah 53:2** - "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry (tsiyyah - the root for zion) ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

It is the hill that David captured from the Jebusites and then built his palace and city on - the city of David - but it also represents God's people in general:

- **Psalm 97:8** - "Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD."

- **Hebrews 12:22** - "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Mountains are a symbol of stability.

Zion is especially linked with the Messiah:

- **Isaiah 28:16** - "So this is what the Lord GOD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken."

Psalm 125:2 - "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever."

Targum: "the Word of the Lord is round about his people"

The seven hills of Jerusalem are the Mount of Olives, Mount Scopus, the Mount of

Corruption or Offense, Mount Ophel, the Original Mount Zion (Temple Mount), the New Mount Zion and the Hill on which the Antonia Fortress was built that overlooks the Temple Mount.

Other metaphors for God's protection of Zion:

- **Isaiah 4:5** - "Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud of smoke by day and a glowing flame of fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a canopy,"

- **Zechariah 2:5** - "Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the multitude of men and livestock within it. For I will be a wall of fire around it, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory within it."

Psalm 125:3 - "For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot (*gowral* - measured boundary) of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity."

NET - "Indeed, the scepter of a wicked king will not settle upon the allotted land of the godly. Otherwise the godly might do what is wrong."

The Hebrew text reads rod of "wickedness"

In the New Testament

1 Corinthians 10:13 - "There hath no temptation (*peirasmos* - test, trial, temptation) taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

- Psalm 103:14 - "For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust."

Psalm 125:4 - "Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts."

Who is "good and upright in their hearts?"

- **Romans 3:10-18** - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ..."

- **Mark 10:18** - "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God."

Even Jesus did not claim to be good - His goodness was derived from the Father. If we are born again as new creatures in Him, His goodness and righteousness becomes ours. But as soon as we reflect on our own goodness, it flies away and we need to repent.

Psalm 125:5 - "As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity ('to hell' - Targum): but peace shall be upon Israel."

Rashi specifies this wickedness as "those who turn aside unto their crooked ways to find wicked accusations"

These are religious hypocrites, accusing others, pious on the outside, but inwardly ravaging wolves:

- **Matthew 7:22-23** - "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

"but peace shall be upon Israel" - Once wickedness is removed, only peace remains in Israel:

- **Psalm 72:7** - "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."

- **Galatians 6:16** - "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."