



PSALMS OF ASCENT

Journey To The New Jerusalem

Adult Bible Fellowship taught by Chris Wittlinger
Sundays in March & April | 9:00AM

Psalms of Ascent

- Songs and chants sung by the Israelites as they journeyed to Jerusalem to worship during the 3 annual feasts
- Drawing near to God in Scripture is almost always expressed as upwards movement
- “The way to Heaven is ascending. We must be content to travel uphill...” – J. Edwards



Mount Zion

- God's protection (125.1-2)
- God's people (126.1, 129.5)
- God's dwelling place (128.5, 129.13, 134.3)
- The Holy City of God, the New Jerusalem (Heb. 12.22-24, Rev. 21.1-3)



Mount Zion

“Mount Zion thus emerges as one symbol among several- the new heaven and earth, the Holy City, the new garden of Eden – all emphasizing God’s complete victory and the promise of his eternal presence. Rather than replace the Old Testament’s vision, the New Jerusalem fulfills and transcends it, transforming a particular place into a universal reality where God dwells with all his people.”



Why Study the Psalms of Ascent?

- Godly desire and Godly determination
- “...when we look up and cultivate a desire to be with God, it will inevitably come coupled with a determination to get there.”



“Let me assure you, when you complete the climb, you will have something far better than a smartwatch congratulating you. The reward is the voice of our Savior: ‘Well done!’ Isn’t it a remarkable thing that we should get the praise for completing such a journey when he carried us on his shoulders the whole way?”



Psalm 120 *Deliver me, O LORD*

- The Psalms of Ascent begin with homesickness
- In my distress I called to the LORD and he answered me.
- Meshech and Kedar
- Are you homesick?



Psalm 120 *Deliver me, O LORD*

- Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace
- Things are not *shalom*
- But I am for peace
- Jerusalem – City (foundation) of Peace



Psalm 120 *Deliver me, O LORD*

- How are things not the way they ought to be?
How do you feel this?
- As strongly as we feel that things aren't supposed to be this way, do we feel just as strongly that things won't ***always*** be this way?



Psalm 120 *Deliver me, O LORD*

- Christ knew this world was not his home and he set his aim for Jerusalem when his days were drawing near (Luke 9.51), but he wasn't headed towards peace, he was ascending to his death. And because he did, when we set our aim for Jerusalem, we are guaranteed peace!

