

Psalm Chapter 124 NIV

Psalm 124 can be divided into 2 parts: (1) The LORD Is with His People Vss. 1-5; (2) The LORD Protects His People Vss. 6-8.

David penned this Psalm upon an occasion of some great deliverance that God did for him and his people during some very threatening danger. It was likely a danger that would have involved them all in ruin, either by foreign invasion, or internal insurrection, is not certain. Whatever it was David seems to have been much affected, and was very much wanted to influence others, with the goodness of God, in making a way for them to escape. To him he is careful to give all the glory and takes none to himself as conquerors usually do. **(1)** He here magnifies the greatness of the danger they were in, and of the ruin they were at the brink of, vss.1-5. **(11)** He gives God the glory for their escape, vss.6-7 compared with vss. 1-2. **(111)** He takes encouragement to trust in God, Vs. 8. In singing this Psalm, besides the application of it to any particular deliverance brought for the Church in our days and the days of our fathers, we can have in our thoughts the great work of our redemption by Jesus Christ, by which we were rescued from the power's darkness.

A song of ascents. Of David: Ps. 124 NIV.

- 1) **If the LORD had not been on our side- let Israel say;**
- 2) **If the LORD had not been on our side when men attack us:**
- 3) **When their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive:**
- 4) **The flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,**
- 5) **The raging waters would have swept us away.**
- 6) **Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.**
- 7) **We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.**
- 8) **Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD Is With His People

Vs.1) IF the LORD had not been on our side- (not our protector) where would we be? It is His power and wisdom that guides and keeps us from our adversaries. The LORD is on our side, He is our defender, and He will be so until the end.

We God's people are far too slow in showing God our gratitude for what He has done and continues to do for us. That is why the Psalmist David said, **"let Israel say"**. He wanted God's people to openly thank Him for being on there side and protecting them. The secret of being kept is the

presence and nearness “**on our side**”, of the LORD.

The keeper of God’s people can be seen in **Ps. 121) I lift my eyes to the hills-where does my help comes from? (2) My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (3) He will not let your foot slip-He who watches over you will not slumber; (4) indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5) The LORD watches over you-the LORD is your shade at your right hand; (6) the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. (7) The LORD will keep you from all harm-He will watch over your life; (8) the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forever.**

2) If the LORD had not been on our side when men attack us,

David is repeating what he said in vs.1 and by doing so he is emphasizing the importance of the LORD’s presence to His people. Without Him, they would have been helpless and would have perished. His presence protected them from dangerous “men” who had revolted against them to wipe them out.

The Hebrew word used here is “Adam” which means “men” that was made from the dust of the earth. God is their creator and the creator of heaven and earth. **Ps.124:8.** What can the dust of the earth do against its maker? **Gen.2:7) The LORD God formed the man from the dust of**

the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The existence of Israel is not due to their fighting strength or their allies support, but because of the covenant that God made to them. He is A covenant keeping God.

3) When their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive.

Their anger “wrath” was flared or “kindled” against us. Wrath is often represented in scriptures as burning or heated as that which consumes all before it.

Swallowed us alive; There was no other help, and ruin-utter ruin would have soon come upon us. The word “**alive**” here also means “**quick**” as a person or persons being swallowed up in an earthquake, as in the case of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. **Num. 16:32-33) The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah’s men and all their possessions. (33) They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community.**

Proverbs also talked about “**swallowed alive**” **Pro. 1:12) Let’s swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit.**

4) The flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,

These are the flood of ungodly men, which are very destructive, wicked, and terrible in their reproaches, afflictions, and persecutions against God people. They are God haters who wanted to swallow the life out of His people. But the living God was with His people because He said **“I will never leave you or forsake you”** David knew that only the presence of His God can save them and keep them afloat.

David states in **Ps. 25:1-3) To You, O LORD, I lift my soul; in You I trust, O my God. (2) Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemy’s triumph over me. (3) No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.**

Ps. 145: 19-21) The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (19) He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them, (20) The LORD watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.

5) The raging waters would have swept us away.

They were referred to as **“raging waters”** because they were offensive, overbearing, and arrogant towards Gods people.

These proud tyrants and persecutors would have prevailed over David and his men until their ruin and destruction. Due to their number, force, and

strength, and especially for their pride and haughtiness, they are like the strong, boisterous, and swelling waves of the sea. But they were stopped and bounded by Him, the LORD God, who has said in, **Job 38:11) “This far you may come and no further; here is where your proud waves halt”.**

Isa. 59:19) So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift a standard against him.

The LORD Protects His People

6) Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

In vss. 4-5 David compares his adversaries as a raging flood, but in this verse, he compares them to wild beasts, who desired to make the godly their prey. The enemies regard the godly as their victims and they prepare their teeth to tear them apart.

David eagerly gives the LORD God wholehearted praise for not permitting His servants to be devoured when they were between the jaws of the raging ones.

None can harm God’s people unless He permits: We cannot be the enemy’s prey unless the LORD gives us up to them! **and that our loving Father will never do.**

David penned in **Ps. 5:11-12) Let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for**

joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You. (12) For surely, O LORD, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield.

7) We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

Here, David is using another metaphor! He is comparing himself and God's people as "**birds**" taken in a "**snare**", or net of a fowler. Evil men set a trap for them, but that trap was broken, and they escaped unharmed. The trap was broken not by God's people strength or of their cleverness' but by God Himself. It was broken by **JEHOVAH SHAMMAH**, Our Always Present God. It was broken by **JEHOVAH ROHI**, Our Shepherd.

God frustrated the plans of the evil, wicked men and brought their plans to naught against His people.

Ps. 91:3) Surely, He will save you from the fowler's snare and from deadly pestilence.

Ps. 140:4) Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from men of violence who plan to trap my feet.

Ps. 141:9,10) Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, from the traps set by evildoers. (10) Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I pass by in safety.

8) Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

“Our help” Our hope for the future, our ground of confidence in all trials present and to come, **“is in the name of the LORD”**.

He made heaven for us, and He will keep us for heaven; He made the earth, and He will secure us upon it until the hour comes for our departure.

When we worship our creator, let us do so in spirit and in truth and He will preserve us from all evils. Let us trust in the LORD! For in the LORD Jehovah there is everlasting strength and security.

2.Tim. 2:18) The LORD will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Rom. 8:37-39) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (38) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, (39) neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Every time we pray to Father God, we should expect miracles to take place. A miracle is something that cannot be **humanly** done as we see in this psalm.

References: The Word Study Bible KJV; Bible Hub Commentary
Online: (Barnes, Notes on the Bible; King Comments Bible Studies;
The Treasure of David Commentary) NIV Bible.