

Our Help is in the Name of the Lord - Psalm 124
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

A lot of you here have known me for a long time. But most of you probably don't know that my favorite superhero is Superman. I can't tell you what the initial draw was. It may have been the red cape since my favorite color is red. It may have been the giant S on his chest that is the same as my first initial. But, as a kid, I remember watching the reruns of The Adventures of Superman starring George Reeves (1952-1958). And yes, I said reruns. I'm old but I'm not that old. Some of my favorite movies as a kid were Superman (1978) and Superman 2 (1980) starring Christopher Reeve. Yes, I am that old. After Superman 2, they quickly started going down hill until... Man of Steel came out in 2013.

This was a kind of a remake of the old Superman and Superman 2 movies of my childhood. They stuck to the main points of his origin of having been sent in a rocket to earth shortly before his home world of Krypton exploded, killing all the inhabitants. They also introduce the main villain, General Zod.

Zod is one of the few surviving people from Superman's home world that Superman doesn't know exists until they show up on Earth looking for him. One of General Zod's desires is to use his "world engine" to terra form the Earth into a new Krypton. This engine would change the gravity, atmosphere, etc. to match what Krypton's was. The drawback is that it would make the planet uninhabitable for humans. Zod had no issues with wiping out what he saw as an inferior species to re-establish their home world. Spoiler alert, Superman of course saves the planet and vanquishes Zod and his lackeys. The surviving humans sing Superman's praises because he saved them from extermination.

In Psalm 124, King David has penned a psalm of thanksgiving directed to the One who has saved his people from utter destruction. This One, David reminds us, is YHWH. This is the covenant name God gave to Moses when he commissioned him to deliver his people from Pharaoh and 400 years of Egyptian slavery.

God even commanded the Israelites to remember that this was his name for all generations in Exodus 3:15. By remembering God in this way, this should bring two things to remembrance for them. One, God is eternal. He is not I Was. He is not I Will Be. He is I AM. Second, he alone is their Deliverer. Exodus 6:6, "Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.'"

As we've been reminded throughout our series, not only did Jesus sing these psalms throughout his life as he made the trek to Jerusalem three times a year, but these psalms are also about Jesus. Because of Jesus, God delivers his people from their sin and his wrath.

In order to do that, Jesus had to experience exactly what the Israelites did not have to in this psalm. He was swept away by the anger and jealousy of the Jewish leaders. He was given over as prey to the teeth of the Roman government. He did not escape. He received no help from the LORD.

The prophet, Isaiah, some 700 years prior to Jesus, writes in the 53rd chapter about what Jesus would need to go through in order to deliver his people. He was despised and rejected (vs 3). He was pierced for our transgressions (vs 5). The LORD laid all our iniquities on him (vs 6). It was the LORD's will to crush him (v 10).

Because of what Jesus suffered on the cross, not only can we be saved from our sin debt and God's wrath, we're saved to become God's people. Titus 2:14 "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession." Being part of the people of God comes with responsibilities. We are to proclaim his excellencies (1 Peter 2). We are to be zealous for good works (Titus 2). We are to stir one

another up to love and good works, regularly meeting together (Hebrews 10). We are to put compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, and love (Colossians 3).

In order to function as the people of God, we must be honest and vulnerable with each other. As life gets hard, are you pulling inward and gritting through the situation(s) or are you being vulnerable with your brothers and sisters in Christ so that they can come along side and bear your burden with you? Some of us are better at that than others. Some of us are reluctant because of past church hurt. However, we are called to be a body and when one member suffers, we all suffer. As we walk this road with each other, we look forward to that day when, as the people of God, we will be fully in God's presence. And because we get God, we will also experience the goodness of God in all its fullness as well. Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Chron icles 1	1 Chron icles 2	1 Chron icles 3	1 Chron icles 4	1 Chron icles 5	1 Chron icles 6	1 Chron icles 7

Reading from this past week: Psalm 124

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 125

Family Worship

Song - *Give Me Jesus*

https://youtu.be/Gz-QfFOBI7Q?si=KCFAon1yiAA_antf

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church on Mission

Story: Paul visited the churches

Big Picture Question: What is our mission as Christians?

Answer: Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 18-21

New City Catechism

Question 24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Answer: Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

Verse: Colossians 1:21-22

Scripture

Psalm 124

- What does it mean that the LORD is on our side? Why is this a great hope?
- What are the circumstances David names from which God saved he and his people? Can you name circumstances where you now can see God's presence and protection in your life?
- How are the longings and desires of this Psalm ultimately fulfilled in Jesus and the hope of the Gospel?

Prayer

*Pray for our Encompass Ministry and our effort to care for foster care, adoption, and exceptional children and their families.

*Give thanks to the Lord because He is on our side and is our help.