

Psalm 121

- A Psalm of ascents
 - Psalms 120 – 134
- Annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem
 - Perhaps people would sing back and forth
 - Perhaps used in the liturgy in the temple

Psalm 121

- I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?
- My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
- He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber;
- Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
- The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;
- The Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.

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What About “The Hills?”

- **Option 1: Towers of strength, stability and steadfastness – the manifestation of God**
- **Option 2: “The hills?? Fuhgeddaboudit! Our help does NOT come from there, but from God himself!”**

Hills – Represent God's Grace

Isaiah 25:6-8: “On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

Hills ... Or Not

- **Deut. 12:1-7:** “... “destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills ... where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. Break down their alters, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places... but you are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name for his dwelling...”
- **Isaiah 65:6-7:** “See, it stands written before me; I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps – both your sins and the sins of your fathers,” says the Lord. “Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills.”

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What The Bible Teaches About Slumber And Sleep

- **I Kings 18:25-29:** “... At noon Elijah began to taunt them. ‘Shout louder!’ he said. ‘Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.’”
- **Proverbs 6:9-11:** “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest – and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.”
- **Proverbs 20:13:** “Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will food to spare.”

What The Bible Teaches About Slumber And Sleep

- **Isaiah 56:10:** “Israel’s watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; they lie around and dream, they love to sleep.”
- **Mark 14:32-42 – The Garden of Gethsemane** “... Are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”
- **Acts 20:7-16 – Eutychus** – “... who fell into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead....”

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What does it mean to us when we say that our Lord, who watches over us, “neither slumbers nor sleeps?” and “The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life...”

And if we believe that statement, how do we explain when things go awry?

And How Do We Give Thanks When We Feel Our Feet Slipping

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- Ephesians 5:20: “...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- James 1:2: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds ...”

So ... Just Who Is This Guy?



Hint: Not Corey, At Least Not Yet



Felix Mendelssohn



From The Music History Desk Of The Good News Class

- Renaissance (1450-1600)
- Baroque (1600-1750)
 - Vivaldi (1678-1741)
 - Handel (1685-1759), Bach (1685-1750)
- Classical (late 18th to early 19th centuries)
 - Mozart (1756-1791)
 - Haydn (1732-1809)
 - Beethoven (1770-1827), Schubert (1797 – 1828)
- Romantic (19th century)
 - **Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)**
 - Chopin (1810 – 1849), Brahms (1833-1897), Liszt (1811-1886)

I Say Felix Mendelssohn And You
Say.....



I Say Felix Mendelssohn And You Say.....

- *Elijah*
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *The Hebrides (aka Fingal's Cave)*
- *Symphony No. 3, Scottish*
- *Symphony No. 4, Italian*
- *Symphony No. 5, Reformation*
- *Hymns*
 - *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* (words by Charles Wesley)
 - *Now Thank We All Our God* (harmonized)

An Early Messianic Jew

- Family originally Jewish
- Converted to Christianity – Lutherans
 - Modified last name to add "Bartholdy"
 - "There can no more be a Christian Mendelssohn than there can be a Jewish Confucius." Abraham Mendelssohn, 1829
- Channeling Mozart – another child prodigy
 - Piano lessons at age 6
 - Played in a public concert at age 9
 - Publishing music at age 13

We Owe Him A Huge “Thank You”

- Rediscovered Bach
 - Performed *St. Matthew Passion* in 1829
 - This was the central event in the revival of Bach’s music in Germany and eventually throughout Europe
 - “To think that it took an actor and a Jew’s son to revive the greatest Christian music for the world.”
 - Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1829
- His view of death – “where it is to be hoped there is still music, but no more sorrow or partings.”

Mendelssohn's Elijah

- Mendelssohn put parts of Psalms 121 and 138, along with other scripture, to music in this superb oratorio
- Let's hear Part 2, number 28 (trio) and number 29 (chorus)

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Psalm 138

- I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
- I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness. For you have exalted above all things your name and your word.
- When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.
- May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth.
- May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.
- Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.
- **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;** you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right you save me.
- The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalm 121: 1- 3

- Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.
- Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
- He has said, thy foot shall not be moved, thy Keeper will never slumber.

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Psalm 121:4 and Psalm 138:7

- He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, not sleeps.
- Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish He will quicken thee.

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Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed
us,
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is
banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.



Let All Things Now Living

His law He enforces; the stars in their courses,
The sun in His orbit, obediently shine:
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and
fountains,
The deeps of the oceans proclaim Him divine.
We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!





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