

Psalm 125

Mount Zion cannot be shaken

(*The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 974–975)

Look

In Psalm 120 the pilgrim begins his journey surrounded by enemies. In Psalm 133 he finishes his journey surrounded by his brothers and sisters in the faith. The psalms in between these two are arranged in pairs. This psalm and its companion, Psalm 128, speak about the peace God bestows on his city, Jerusalem.

Verse 1 “*Mount Zion*”—Mount Zion is the southeast hill of Jerusalem, on which the city of David sat. The temple mount is the northern extension of this hill. Zion is not a particularly impressive mountain, but it does lie within a protective ring of sorts. The Mount of Olives that overlooks it to the east is 200 feet higher. The mountain to its west is 100 feet higher (today this western hill is called Mount Zion, but it is not the original Zion). (Note the statement “the mountains surround Jerusalem” [verse 2].) But the real protection of the Holy City was not the surrounding mountains but the protection of the Lord.

Verse 3 “*The scepter of wickedness*”—The ability or right of the wicked to rule over the land.

Discuss

1. What is the point of comparison in verse 1? in verse 2?
2. In verse 3 the psalmist promises that the wicked would not rule over his people. Why does he say that he will not let that happen?
3. What does the psalmist ask God to do in verse 4?

Apply

4. The church often goes through bad times. Leaders and teachers who teach false doctrines and undermine the gospel arise in the church. Division takes place among the laity or between churches. The enemies of the church find such conditions to their liking since they can point their fingers at the dysfunction of the church and try to shame it. How can the church survive and overcome such difficulties? What will bring it peace?

The Lord God himself, in whom we trust, is our strength, and he strengthens us to do the tasks he has given us to do.