## **PSALM 121 vs 1**

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This is the second of 15 psalms... sometimes called: **A Song of Ascents**... thought by some to be sung in praise to the LORD of glory... used in the all-night ceremony to begin **Passover**, **Pentecost** and the Feast of Tabernacles -- the 7<sup>th</sup> great day belonging to the Lord... usually celebrated in October. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple... it is believed by some that there were 15 psalms for 15 steps... ascending from the lower Women's Court to the higher Men's Court; others suggest the 15 Psalms were sung while all the people made their journey to Jerusalem, which is why we read:



## A Song of Ascents,

¹ Will I lift up my eyes to the hills? Is that where my help comes from? / in Hebrew: ezer, means: help, or helper. We first learn this word in Genesis 2, when the LORD God sees Adam alone and He says, I will make for him... a helper. In Psalm 115 - 3 times...we read: the Lord, He is my helper.

## Is that where my help comes from? No! ...look higher!

- <sup>2</sup> My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth / help from YHWH; those who lean on the LORD, to seek His help, build life differently than those helped by a fool, or a charlatan.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not allow Your foot to be moved: He who keeps you will not slumber / in Hebrew: shamar: guard, to protect... used 6 times in this psalm. I's interesting: this word first appears in Genesis 2 when in the Garden of Eden... the Lord first assigned Adam with a 2-part task -- a task Adam did not do. And by the end of Genesis 3, the word describes those who did their assignment very well! David tells us: the LORD is not snoozing. I bet we all would like to know our God stays awake... watching, to protect us.
- <sup>4</sup> Indeed, He who keeps Israel will not slumber or sleep / this name: ruled, by GoD; isra + EI; and we can imagine God is concerned about those He governs, right? Hopefully, that is a lifelong assignment God our Father in heaven has lovingly given himself to do, right? He, this marvelous Helper, the CREATOR of all the universe... He is not dozing; He does not take... even a 30-minute nap.
- <sup>5</sup>The LORD is Your keeper / who guards, to protect: the LORD is Your shade on Your right hand / He, who created all things, is as close as our right hand; and I bet it is safe to say: we all like knowing God... is so near.
- The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night / said a little differently,
  - Not what heats or enflames the day, not what cools or chills the night will cause us harm.

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<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve from all evil / guess what? Same word: shamar. You know, some lame brained English writers, pleased to demonstrate their brilliance centuries ago ...created rules of "good English" which include: never repeating the same word twice in the same sentence. Why? So, let's make the correction, because David did not write in English.

He will keep / will guard, to protect Your soul... and again, I will safely wager: we all like knowing our Father in heaven, who is so kind and caring, is careful attention toward us...

The night Jesus was betrayed, when He went and gave His life for us; He asked His disciples **12 times that night** -- so it must have been important, but was anybody listening? He asked them <u>12 times</u>: keep, <u>quard, to protect</u> My words; and keep, <u>quard, to protect</u> My commands; a 2-part task; and He only had 2 commands: **1**. Love God his Father above all others; and **2**. Love one another, as He loved us that's it.

The last words Matthew wrote in his gospel... when Jesus said: Go into the world; making disciples... lifelong learners... to observe all I have commanded...same word, to keep, guard, to protect. In Revelation 3... to the congregation in Philadelphia, Jesus says, you have little strength, and have kept My word.... Because you have kept the word of My endurance... I also will keep you from the terrible hour of testing, which will come upon the whole world...

same word -- <u>3 times</u>: to <u>guard, to protect</u>. So, they were listening. Apparently, this Greek word: *tereo...* is an important task... that He would like to have <u>all</u> his lifelong learners do for Him. I wonder if anybody else is listening. You know, I bet it is safe to say: those who simply do that: who <u>keep</u>, who <u>guard</u>, <u>to protect His word</u>... someday... will be glad they did it, too... knowing...

\*The LORD will keep / guard, to protect all your comings and goings, from this time forth, and even for evermore. Some people ask: what can I do for the Lord? Well, how about... we do what He said?!

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