

## **Psalm 125**

This psalm provides a word-picture of the stability of God's followers. Our Good Shepherd is keeping us safe and sound. The believers are compared to an unmovable holy mountain protected by God. God is like a rock foundation. We drill into God's word and thus we are anchored into something unmovable. Unbelievers cannot touch our inheritance or make us move. The workers of iniquity (like goats) don't stay with the Good Shepherd; and they will wander into someplace else.

**Read Psalm 125:1-2:**

### **We are Immovable Objects in Christ**

Jerusalem and Mount Zion are synonymous with God's kingdom on earth.



God tells us that we are part of his kingdom as well. Unbelievers want to erase that reminder. Mount Zion, Jerusalem is one of the most hotly-contested holy sites. The surrounding countries have tried to get the Jews to abandon Jerusalem since settling there. From the rebuilding of the city and walls until now, it has been a non-stop resistance and battle. The Jews continue to migrate back to Israel, to enhance their faith and their spiritual freedom. The Islamic neighboring countries are committed to destroying the Jews and taking Jerusalem as a prize. In a sense, it is their way of saying that Allah has displaced Jehovah.

*“What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?” Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall.” (Nehemiah 4:2-3)*

The PLO Charter calls for complete removal of the Jews from the land that God gave to the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**Article 15:** The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national (*qawmi*) duty and it attempts to repel the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab homeland, and aims at the elimination of Zionism in Palestine. Absolute responsibility for this falls upon the Arab nation - peoples and governments - with the Arab people of Palestine in the vanguard. Accordingly, the Arab nation must mobilize all its military, human, moral, and spiritual capabilities to participate actively with the Palestinian people in the liberation of Palestine. It must, particularly in the phase of the armed Palestinian revolution, offer and furnish the Palestinian people with all possible help, and material and human support, and make available to them the means and opportunities that will enable them to continue to carry out their leading role in the armed revolution, until they liberate their homeland.

God’s people are immovable when they are with him; but unbelievers drift around (in unison) with the prevailing winds of pop culture. Psalm 1 depicts believers as being fruit trees rooted and anchored in God’s unchanging word.

*Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1)*

As Gentiles, we do not have this long-standing tradition of God’s anchorage. Our ancient ancestors were idolators. We are not stable by nature, but we have become stabilized by the Holy Spirit. We were grafted into this deeply-rooted *tree of life* as some unbelieving Jews were pruned off. The life of the tree is in its tethered roots. The olive tree is a good fruit tree to represent faith, since olive oil is a representation of the Holy Spirit.

*...some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of*

*the olive tree...The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. (Romans 11:17)*

Another way to compare the stability of God's people to the unpredictable and dangerous worldly people is as comparing dry land to the turbulent sea.

*Woe to the multitude of many people Who make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. (Isaiah 17:13-14)*

The seas are collections of rivers. Rivers are compared to nations with specific origins and boundaries. Rivers are all distinct in their origins, size and history. They all ultimately flow out to sea and mix. Once the rivers mix, they are no longer distinct. They all conform to a oneness in characteristics. God unmixed all of the nations at the Tower of Babel; partially because mankind requires checks and balances of power and tyranny.

Today we have a new level of *globalism, instead of national pride*. Having separate nations has historically served to protect us. Political correctness and the internet have removed many national distinctions. The *Green Movement* and the *Woke Movement* are displacing many age-old societal values. We have gone from a society that based personal respect on what had been earned and demonstrated. Now it is all based on mere association and compliance with the suggested narratives. There are no longer so many dissenting opinions...just one mindset with *imaginary values*.

The sea is described as a dangerous place, where the winds produce high waves and undertow. The dangerous winds on the open seas of humanity are compared to demonic influences on our society. The invisible forces are moving the world diatribe in chorus. Our fads and willingness to go along with popular movements is universal. Everybody is talking from the same imaginary script. We are willingly exchanging what has been valuable and has served us for what confines and cripples us. The world population is uniformly influenced by demonic power. They are not anchored in the unchanging and unmovable scriptures.

*...we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (Ephesians 4:14)*

*By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas; Who established the mountains by His strength, Being clothed with power; You who still the noise of the seas, The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the*

*peoples. They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. (Psalm 65:5-8)*

There are the people who are anchored into the unmoving truth of God; and then there is the world full of gullible unbelievers looking to government or society to provide clear direction. This provides the perfect opportunity for the devil and his lying spirits to re-combine nations with malicious intentions. As the nations give up their national sovereignty we end up creating unstoppable blood thirsty monsters. These recombined nations under demonic influence are compared to ravenous animals.

*And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority (Revelation 13:1-2)*

### **It Was the Best of Times, It was the Worst of Times**

**Read Psalm 125: 3-5:** What does it mean that the righteous people will not live under the evil scepter? Israel was abused and oppressed by the Greeks and Romans for many years. But the ancient Jews were not righteous. God kicked them out of his land because they refused to obey him. Sadly, there are very few revivals, where an evil nation became holy.

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

Some believers within a compromised nation removed themselves from tyranny. The church in Jerusalem was attacked; and spread out around the world to live peaceful lives. The Mayflower was full of bible-believing separatist Christians who wanted to create a *New Zion*, away from the oppressive church of England....and from the compromised lifestyles in Holland. They separated themselves from the heavy-handed English King.

What about Paul and the early church living under Cesar? He lived under an oppressive regime. You could not say that at any time since Samuel died has Israel

been a land of the righteous. Even so, God protects his individual people living in a secular culture. Even the most evil governments can bless the believer.

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. (Romans 13:1-7)*

Individuals who were righteous bring common grace to a nation; which blesses all people around them to a degree...but their compromised countrymen around them may not be righteous. The righteous can live as a protected entity within a nation being judged.

*...when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 14:13-14)*

Examples of national repentance do exist. Jonah's warning spared Nineveh from being destroyed. The books of Judges, 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles are like a broken record of revival and judgement cycles repeating over and over. One example is to begin with the conditions under evil King Manasseh:

*Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.... And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of*



*the house of the LORD. Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers—only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them." But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.' "* Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD. (2 Kings 21)

Obviously, conditions under evil King Manasseh were as bad as any in the history of Judah. We do have to remember that God chooses kings according to how his people are living. God gracefully provided a righteous king after Manasseh who cleaned up this horrible mess. Like the story of the Lion King, a righteous king came to this nightmare and restored his land. King Josiah is an excellent example.

*Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."..... Then the king*

*commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him. (2 Kings 22-23)*