**“SECURITY”**

**PSALM 125**

**Pastor Keith E. Gephart**

INTRODUCTION

How does one find security in our uncertain world—especially in light of our current insecurity and chaos?

Is security to be found in *religious formalism?* Compare the attitude of Israel prior to captivity (Jer. 7:1-11).

True religion starts at the center—the Lord Himself. That is where we find security.

1. SECURITY OF THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD (1)

Here the psalmist looks at the chosen people as a whole.

**Trust** is a key aspect of the believer’s relationship with the Lord—along with the *fear* of the Lord, *love*, and spiritual *knowledge*.

Those who trust Yahweh are as Mount Zion:

1. Cannot be moved. The mountain itself has deep roots in the earth, and remains even though the buildings upon it are often tumbled and ruined, the location remains.
2. Abides forever—literally “sits forever.”

* This relationship lasts forever.
* Because God Himself is immovable and secure, so are those who trust in Him.
* Song: “I shall not be moved.”

1. SAFETY OF GOD’S PEOPLE (2)
2. The mountains/hills surround Jerusalem—literally, “Jerusalem, the hills surrounding/around her.”
3. Yahweh surrounds His people—“And/even Yahweh surrounding/around His people.”
4. Eternal Security—“From now/this time and unto forever.”

* The comparison is implied in the Hebrew.
* See II K. 6:17.

1. SCEPTER OF WICKEDNESS (3)
2. Oppression of ungodly rulers.
3. The term “rod” or “staff” here, when speaking of political rule, means “scepter.”
4. The word seems to indicate their current circumstances under a form of oppression by ungodly rulers—likely foreign, though by itself even wicked Israelite rulers could be in view.
5. The land belongs to Israel.
6. The term used is “lot”—that is the territory given to them by lot (see Josh 15-19).
7. The term “righteous” speaks of the godly who are right with Him and live by His righteous laws.
8. Yahweh will not continue to tolerate such circumstances.

* This is a prophetic statement.
* Such oppressive and wicked rule will not “rest upon” the land of Israel.
* It will not endure, for Yahweh will see to it.

1. The Righteous must not become discouraged (cf. Ps. 73:13-14) and be led to do wrong.
2. The expression is literally “stretch/put forth their hands on wickedness/iniquity” (cf. Gen. 37:22).
3. The wickedness involves much more than taking revenge on their enemies, and speaks of all sorts of wrongdoing and evil.
4. They can be led to do wrong by the **bad example** of their rulers, by the **coercion** of their rulers, and by becoming **disheartened** and **disillusioned**.

* If their faith and patience waver and fail, they may yield to the temptation to renounce His service as unprofitable.
* With this prophetic assurance, God’s people are encouraged to seek His assistance.

1. SUPPLICATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE (4-5)

* God gives to each group what is right, and what they deserve.

1. God destines “good” for those who are “good” (4).
2. “Goodness” is moral harmony with God’s standards.
3. Goodness is further defined as “uprightness of heart.”
4. God brings “good” to them—all sorts of spiritual and material well-being.
5. This well-being is further defined as **peace** that will be upon Israel.
6. God determines departure for the bad (5).
7. They “turn aside”—this is a deliberate choice on their part; they actually “turn aside their crooked ways.”
8. Their ways are “crooked” or “bent” (cf. Jud. 5:6—only other use of the Hebrew word; used for the “by-ways” or “round-about” ways taken when the actual roads were closed.
9. They belong to the class of the “workers of/doers of iniquity; they may have pretended to be different, but it turns out that they are one and the same.
10. Yahweh thus “leads them forth” to the same destiny—to ruin and destruction.

* **How appropriate that they “turn aside their crooked ways,” so Yahweh “leads them astray”!**

CONCLUSION

True peace comes not by wicked compromise, but by the way of righteousness.

The people of God find true security in their trust in God, and in their uprightness of heart, leading to good behavior.

**There is no security in wickedness!**