



Living at Peace in a Hostile World!

Lesson 3 • Psalm 120

- Our journey to joy begins with Psalm 120 in a place that is **HOSTILE** to God: *The land of Meshek among the tents of Kedar!*
- Our journey to joy begins in a world that is filled with **DISTRESSING TROUBLES**.

Learning to Live at Peace in a Hostile World

Life Skill #1 Learn to **PRAY** with confident trust in the LORD.

- Confident trust in the Lord comes from a **PAST PATTERN (PAST GRACE)** of answered prayer. (v. 1)

Do you pray? Do you have a past pattern of answered prayer?

What Does a Pattern of Past Answered Prayer Look Like?		
<i>"In my trouble..."</i>	Adversity/Anxiety/Antagonism	Problems and Problem People
<i>"I cried to the LORD..."</i>	Asking	Praying
<i>And He answered me."</i>	Answering	Praising

A Pattern of Prayer Like This Builds Confident Trust in the Lord – Even in Times of Conflict and Unanswered Prayer!

- Confident trust in the Lord comes from the **FUTURE POWER (FUTURE GRACE)** of answered prayer. (v. 2)
 - 1) The focus in prayer is not on the **PROBLEMS** or the **PROBLEM PEOPLE** but on the **PERSON** of the **LORD!**
 - 2) The focus is on the LORD because only He has the **POWER** to deliver us from problem people!
 - 3) The focus is on the LORD because only He can keep His **PROMISE** to deliver us from problem people!
 - 4) The focus is on the LORD because **only He can deliver the WHOLE PERSON** in this life and the life to come!

Life Skill #2 Learn to **WAIT** for final judgment and future deliverance from the LORD.

- Wait for final **VENGEANCE** from the LORD on those who hate Him and His peace. *120:3; Deuteronomy 32:25; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30*

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the LORD!

- Wait for future **VINDICATION** by the LORD of those who love Him and His peace. *120:4; Revelation 6:9-11; 19:11-16, 19-21*

Life Skill #3 Learn to **LAMENT** that we still live in a world at war with the LORD and His people.

- Lamenting is the **LOST ART** of expressing our feelings of sadness, brokenness, and helplessness over the heart-breaking consequences of sin in a fallen world in a God-honoring, soul-searching way that humbly submits to the LORD and His providence in all things.

Lamenting is godly weeping, mourning, and grieving over the heart-breaking consequences of sin in a fallen world.

Lamenting is often done in prayer, in song, and even in silence.

LAMENT is...	LAMENT is NOT...
WEEPING about sin and separation from God.	WHINING about self and our situation.
GROANING about the curse of sin.	GRIPING about the circumstances of our situation.
MOURNING about the consequences of living in a fallen world that is out of our control.	MURMURING about the circumstances we want to control and change.
GRIEVING over painful losses due to sin in a fallen world.	GLOSSING over painful losses due to sin in a fallen world.
EXPRESSING our deep feelings of sadness and loss in God-honoring, soul-searching, and humbly repentant ways.	EXPRESSING our deep feelings of sadness and loss in God-dishonoring, blame-shifting, and proudly rebellious ways.

- Learn to lament that we live in a land that is far from the LORD and among a people who are at war with Him and His people. *120:5-7*

As Long as You Live in a Hostile World Learn to Lament about...

- 1) **WHERE** we still have to live: *A place that is far from the New Jerusalem and New Creation. (v. 5)*
- 2) **HOW LONG** we have to live here: *Until the LORD comes to deliver us with His powerful presence (= parousia). (v. 6)*
- 3) **WHO** we are living among: *A people who hate peace and are at war with the LORD and His people. (v. 7)*

So What Do We Do After We Have Prayed and While We Are Waiting and Lamenting?

*"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Romans 12:18).
And whatever does not "depend on you" continue to **PRAY, WAIT, and LAMENT!***

Application for Going Further Up, Further In

- Begin the practice of learning to **PRAY – WAIT – LAMENT** when you face increasing conflict, adversity, and hostility from those who hate God's peace and love to wage war against Him and His people. Lead others to do the same when they face unchanging circumstances and increasing conflict with those opposed to the LORD.
- Create playlist of music that teaches you how to lament: "**Come Weary Saints**" by Sovereign Grace Music; "**The Blood +The Breath: Songs that Tell the Story of Redemption**" by Caroline Cobb; and "**Desiring God**" by Steve Camp are places to start. Begin to identify songs of lament in Christian and even secular music.
- Study and pray through the Psalms of Lament in the Bible: **Individual Lament** (3, 4, 5, 7, 9-10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 36, 39, 40:12-17, 41, 42-43, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 70, 71, 77, 86, 89, 120, 139, 141, 142) and **Community Lament** (12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 89, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129).
- Seek to respond to personal, local, national, and global suffering with **prayers of lament** rather than whining, griping, murmuring or glossing over the pain of living in a sin-stained fallen world.