



# If, Then, But, Therefore... the LORD Is On Our Side!

Lesson 7 • Psalm 124

## Where Are We On Our Journey to Joy?

- Psalms 123-125 repeat the pattern we saw in the first three Songs of Ascents (120-122).

STUCK LAMENTING in a HOSTILE PLACE	ON THE MOVE with the LORD'S PEOPLE	ENJOYING PEACE in the LORD'S PRESENCE
Psalm 120 – <i>Slander</i> from the Hostile	Psalm 121 – The LORD Is <i>by</i> Our Side to Help	Psalm 122
Psalm 123 – <i>Scorn</i> from the Hostile	Psalm 124 – The LORD Is <i>on</i> Our Side to Help	Psalm 125

### Overview of the Song's Structure:

#### A Declaration of Total Dependence on the LORD for Total Deliverance from Total Destruction!

A Declaration of TOTAL DELIVERANCE: IF the LORD had not been on our side, THEN we would have been totally destroyed. (vv. 1-5)

A Declaration of TOTAL DEPENDENCE: BUT the LORD did totally deliver us, THEREFORE, we declare our total dependence on Him. (vv. 6-8)

### IF the LORD Is Not on Our Side, THEN What?

#### Who is the Enemy Coming Against Us?

- **Specifically**, the enemy is not identified, which allows us to apply this song to our own **UNIQUE** situation.
- **Generally**, the enemy is "**MANKIND**" in its brutal and deadly opposition to God and His sojourning people.
  - 1) They are like a furious **SEA SERPENT/DRAGON/CREATURE**.  
 "Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their anger was kindled against us;" (v. 3)  
  
 "In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea." Isaiah 27:1
  - 2) They are like a perilous **RAGING FLOOD**.  
 Then the waters would have engulfed us, the stream would have swept over our soul; then the raging waters would have swept over our soul."  
 (vv. 4-5)
  - 3) They are like a ravenous **WILD ANIMAL**.  
 "Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us to be torn by their teeth." (v. 6)
  - 4) They are like a devious **CUNNING TRAPPER**.  
 "Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper;" (v. 7)  
  
 "Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them." Ecclesiastes 9:12  
  
 "Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me, And from the snares of those who do iniquity." Psalms 141:9
- **Ultimately**, the enemy is always our Adversary the **DEVIL** himself. Ephesians 6:10-12

## What Is the Devil and His Demonic Forces Like?

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Furious Sea Serpent</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:3-9; 13:1-2; 20:2</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Perilous Flood</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Revelation 12:15-16</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Ravenous Animal</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1Peter 5:8</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Devious Trapper</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 6:10; 2Corinthians 2:11; 2Corinthians 11:3; 2Timothy 2:24-26</i></p>
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### Why Is the Enemy Coming Against Us?

- For **BEING FAITHFUL** to the LORD as our sovereign Deliverer-King.
- For **MAKING PROGRESS** in going further up and further on our journey to joy.

### So What IF the LORD Was Not on Our Side?

- **THEN** we would have been **SWALLOWED UP** by the chaos monster.
- **THEN** we would have been **SWEPT AWAY** by the raging flood.
- **THEN** we would have been **TORN APART** by the wild animal.
- **THEN** we would have been **FOREVER ENTRAPPED** by the scheming trapper.

### BUT the LORD Is on Our Side, THEREFORE...

#### 1. We declare that the LORD has **ALREADY** delivered us from **TOTAL DESTRUCTION**.

*"Had it not been the LORD who was on our side,' Let Israel now say, 'Had it not been the LORD who was on our side when men rose up against us, then...then...then..." (vv. 1-5)*

*"For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who **DELIVERED us from so great a peril of death, and WILL DELIVER us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He WILL YET DELIVER us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.**" 2Corinthians 1:8-11*

#### 2. We declare that the LORD has **TOTALLY DELIVERED us and NOT OURSELVES**.

*"Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us to be torn by their teeth. Our soul has escaped...the snare is broken and we have escaped." (vv. 6-7)*

#### 3. We declare our **TOTAL DEPENDENCY** on the LORD and **NO ONE ELSE** for deliverance.

*"Our help (= deliverance) is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth." (v. 8)*

### So How Do I Know If the LORD Is on My Side?

#### Application for Going Further Up, Further In

- **DEDICATION:** *Settle the question of whether you are on the LORD's side or not! Joshua 5:13-18*
- **CONNECTION:** *Strive to know the LORD in a deeper way according to His NAME – His character and attributes.*
- **MEDITATION:** *Stay focused on the promises of God. Psalms 56; 120; 124; Romans 8:31-39*
- **REFLECTION:** *Spend time reflecting on how the LORD has delivered you, considering the consequences if He had not done so.*  
*"If the LORD had not been on my/our side when (**describe the need for deliverance**) then I/we would have (**describe the consequences**)!"*
- **CELEBRATION:** *Speak, sing, and shout public praise to the LORD whenever He delivers you!*  
*"The LORD deserves my/our praise, because He was on my/our side and here is how He delivered me/us (**describe how He delivered you**)!"*
- **DECLARATION:** *Say, sing, and shout out loud exactly **WHO** it is that you depend on to deliver you out of every disaster and deadly situation:*

*"Our deliverance is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth!" (Repeat 3 times!)*