

Rock Solid Faith Is Unshakeable to the End!

Lesson 8 • Psalm 125

The Shaking of an Earthquake and an Election

How has the current state of our country, the moral values of our government, and the craziness of the current election shaken your sense of security and stability and perhaps even threatened your own integrity?

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 by Our Side to Help	Psalm 122 – Peace in the <i>community</i> of the LORD.
Psalm 123 – Scorn from the Hostile	Psalm 124 – The LORD Is on Our Side to Help	Psalm 125 – Peace in the <i>security</i> of the LORD.

Overview of the Big Idea of Psalm 125

A Rock Solid Faith in the LORD Builds a Wall of Security Around the Heart of Integrity to Live with Unfailing Fidelity Now and for All Eternity.

Our Challenge: Don't Let Living Under Ungodly Authority Shake Our "Shalom"!

- > Shalom is *more than* "<u>PEACE</u>" as we like to think about it and experience it:
- > Shalom is the state of living according to the **PURPOSES** of God for His people!
- > But the challenge is to not let living under ungodly authority right now "SHAKE" our shalom!
 - 1) Living under ungodly authorities threatens our **<u>SHALOM</u>**.
 - It threatens the *stability* of God's people.
- It threatens the *integrity* of God's people.
- It threatens the security of God's people.
- It threatens the *mobility* of God's people.
- 2) Living under ungodly authorities tempts our INTEGRITY,
 - It tempts us to **<u>COMPLY</u>** with their wicked demands.
 - It tempts us to **CONFORM** to their evil desires.
 - It tempts us to <u>COMPROMISE</u> with their crooked ways.

Our CONFIDENCE: Rock solid faith in the LORD builds a wall of security around the integrity of God's people, so they can live with unfailing fidelity now and for all eternity!

Three Reasons Why the Threats and Temptations of Living Under Ungodly Authority Does Not Have to Shake Our Shalom:

1. A Picture of <u>PROTECTION</u>. (vv. 1-2)

- ► A picture of eternal **STABILITY** like Mount Zion.
- > A picture of eternal **SECURITY** like the mountains that surround Jerusalem.
- ► The point of the pictures: God's presence with His people gives us *immovable stability* and surrounds us with *invincible security* for *all eternity*!

2. A Promise of LIMITATION. (V. 3)

- The LORD will prevent the wicked from ruling <u>PERMANENTLY</u>.
- ► The LORD will prevent the righteous from having to **COMPROMISE** their integrity. 1Corinthians 10:13

3. A Prayer of VINDICATION. (VV. 4-5)

- ► O LORD, **<u>REWARD</u>** the upright in heart who do good.
- ► O LORD, **REMOVE** those who fall away and follow after the crooked way of the doers of iniquity.

Rock Solid Faith Is Built Upon the ROCK that Never Rolls!

- > Rock solid faith lives with *security*, because *The Rock* enables His people to live in security in insecure times.
- Rock solid faith lives with *integrity*, because *The Rock* enables His people to live with purity in impure times.
- > Rock solid faith lives with *fidelity*, because *The Rock* enables His people to live with faithfulness in unfaithful times.

On Christ-the SOLID ROCK-I Stand; All Other Ground Is Sinking Sand!

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. His oath, His covenant, and blood Support me in the whelming flood; When every earthly prop gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne! On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. (By Edward Mote, 1797-1874)

Application for Going Further Up, Further In

- Press in on the picture of the LORD's presence surrounding us and giving us unshakable security in His Name! Then share it with someone this week!
- > Persevere in living with integrity no matter what happens, no matter who is elected, no matter what laws are passed, and no matter how many fall away. Then share this commitment with someone when the election comes up in discussion this week!
- > Persist in praying for the LORD's soon return and coming Kingdom where righteousness will rule, wickedness will be removed, and peace will reign from Mount Zion in the New Creation! *Then share this gospel of peace with someone in need of it this week!*

May Our Faith Remain Rock Solid and Unshakeable to the End as We Live with Uncompromising Integrity and Unfailing Fidelity!