

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
James M. Duncan, Pastor

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“OUR DYNAMIC HELP FOR 2020”
(Part 2)

Psalm 121:1-8

Our theme and verse of the year is **OUR DYNAMIC HELP For 2020**, which comes from *Psalm 121*. Last Sunday we studied the first two verses and noted first:

♦ **The POSSIBILITIES for Help on Our Journey**

In verses 1 and 2. And in the POSSIBILITIES we learned three truths.

1. **We Can Look Around for Help V-1**
2. **We Can Look Within for Help V-1b**

Remember that there should be a dash and not a comma in verse one. He is asking himself the question – “--From whence comes my help?”

3. **We Can Look Above for Help -V-2**

Now this morning as we continue, we are going to see a second great truth from this Psalm and that is:

♦ **The PROMISES of Help on Our Journey**

We notice something slightly odd as we come to the third verse of this psalm. The writer’s perspective changes from first person (“I”) to second person (“you”). “Who will help me?” he asks. He concludes, “**Here is what God will do for you and for me.**”

In the process of answering his question for our benefit, the psalmist uses eight small verses to make three immense points invaluable to our journey toward those hills.

1. THE LORD PERCEIVES YOU Vs.3-4

Aren’t you glad that God knows who you are? Isn’t it unbelievable? The God who made heaven and earth knows you by name! **V-2** He knows the very hairs on your head by **number**. Jesus assured us of that (see *Matt. 10:30*). When you say, “God, I need Your help,” you need to know that He knows you. He perceives you.

Notice what the text says next: (**vv. 3 - 4**). In the loneliest, darkest hour of the night, He is there because He doesn’t slumber or sleep. He never **slumbers**. He never **sleeps**. **He perceives you**, and I hope your sleep is deep and refreshing in the knowledge of it.

II. THE LORD PROTECTS YOU Vs. 5-6

God is the pilgrim’s shade on his right hand. The word *shade* is very ‘important. Travelers along the ancient roads in this part of the world felt deep anxiety about the desert heat. Sunstroke was a serious issue. The phrase “**right hand**” suggests a wonderful truth about the place we hold in the heart of God. The Scriptures consistently speak of the right hand of the Lord as indicative of His power. He has given you shade in His right hand; we’re told. He protects you around the clock, with mighty power. That should bolster your courage. He protects us by day and by night.

So, we see that the Lord Perceives you and He Protects You and lastly...

III. THE LORD PRESERVES YOU Vs. 7-8

This wonderful promise contains four precious truths.

1. **The Lord preserves us from evil.** God will help us make it through when evil and danger rear their heads.

2. **The Lord preserves our existence.** The word “*soul*” in the Hebrew writings usually reach for this word when the meaning is *life*. In other words, God is going to **keep your life**. It doesn’t end when you breathe your last breath, we are an eternal soul.

3. **The Lord preserves us every day.**

I love this phrase: “The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in” (**v. 8**).

4. **The Lord preserves us eternally.**

The psalmist proclaims that the Lord will preserve us “from this time forth, and even forevermore” (**v. 8**).

When the bend in the road seems treacherous, we can smile and look right past it. We can lift our eyes above that bend and take in the beautiful hills outlined against the horizon. Then we can cast our gaze beyond even those, past the horizon and into the face of our Father. We know He loves us and watches over us, over the entire journey here and in the next world.

For as the Apostle said we can also say:

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38–39