



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

DECEMBER 31, 2023

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TEXT: PSALM 121:1-8

TITLE: I CHOOSE TO LOOK UP

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As we are approaching a new year, anxiety, trepidation, fear, worry, etc. _____
- B. Some are fearful of what may happen and others of what may not happen _____
- C. We, therefore, look for answers: in ourselves, in others, in our stuff... _____
- D. Israel is in captivity. They see the flat plains of Babylon _____
 - 1. No mountains to look up to
 - 2. They look out at nothing
 - 3. They look down at dirt
 - 4. There is no hope nor expectation of a brighter future ahead
 - 5. Similar situation to our enslaved ancestors
- E. Some may be approaching 2024 with a similar perspective _____

I WIL LOOK UP

- A. Remember, Israel was looking out at nothing and down at dirt _____
- B. I will lift up my eyes to the hills (mountains) _____
 - 1. I will look up
 - 2. Mountains: God’s Strength – **Psalm 125:2**, ² *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the Lord surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.*
 - 3. Mountains: Mt. Moriah
 - 4. Mountains: Mt. Zion
 - 5. Mountains had major significance for Jerusalem
- C. Question: From where will my help come? _____
- D. Answer: My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. _____

THE LORD IS YOUR STABILIZER

- A. The Lord will not let your foot be moved (move = to shake or waver) _____
- B. The Lord will not let you shake or waver _____
- C. The Lord does not slumber nor sleep _____

THE LORD IS YOUR SECURITY

- A. The words “keeper” and “Preserve” are the same Hebrew word, *šāmar*, meaning to watch over and protect _____
- B. The Lord will not let harm or danger come to you _____
 - 1. The Lord is your keeper [to watch over you and protect you]
 - 2. The Lord is your shade (shade = shadow/defense) at your right hand. [right beside you]
 - 3. The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. [no harm – day or night]
 - 4. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. [no harm to your life]
 - 5. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore. [no harm wherever you go]