Psalm 124 — "Praise God That He Rescued You!"

Here, in Ps 124, we have ... one great master-thought... there is the full recognition of Jehovah's grace and power as working both for the deliverance and the security of His people" (J.J. Stewart Perowne)

If God had not been on our side
and had not come to aid us,
our foes with all their pow'r and pride
would surely have dismayed us,
for we, his flock, would have to fear
the devil's wolves, both far and near,
who rise in might against us.
(Martin Luther)

PONDER IT:

- ***Where would you be if God had *NOT* saved you?***

Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
– Charles Wesley

Background to Psalm 124

- A **Song of Ascents** (part of the *Pilgrim's Traveling Hymnbook/Playlist*): **Ps 124** is an Israelite *praise song* to God b/c he rescued them from fierce enemies!
- **The Figures**: swallowing up alive (v.3) // kindled anger (v.3b) // raging waters that drown (v.4-5), // torn by a monster's teeth (v.6a) // a bird caught in the snare (v.7) - ***put images in the mind.***
- **The Structure:** IF…IF (v.1,2), THEN…THEN…THEN (v.3,4,5) & Yhwh has delivered us (v.6-8)

The point of Psalm 124 —
Praise God That He Rescued You!
>> If God is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?"

THESIS — This psalm instructs us to praise God that He rescued us *with <u>2 personal considerations</u>*.

1. REFLECTION! - my life WITHOUT God! (1-5)
2. REAFFIRMATION! - my life WITH God! (6-8)

I. <u>REFLECTION</u>! - my life *<u>without</u>* God (vv.1-5)

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Where would we be? -

blinded by sin (Zeph 1.17)
enslaved to sin (Rom 6)
alienated from God (EPH 2)
unable to approach God (John 6))
loving the darkness (john 3)
under divine curse (Gal 3.10)
foul from top to bottom (Isa 1.5-6)
without a mediator (1 Tim 2.5)
awaiting God's repayment/vengeance (Hebrews 10.31)
exposed to wrath divine (Rev 14.10)
headed for the eternal Lake of Fire (Rev 20.15)

II. **REAFFIRMATION**! - my life ***with*** God (vv.6-8)

Like a bird out of the snare of the trapper…

So many snares and traps assault us & come our way —

1. WORLDLINESS —

2. SELFISHNESS —

3. UNBELIEF —

But: Every Christian can say: "the snare is broken!" Satan's powers, schemes, traps, hold on me is broken/crushed! My Savior broke & bruised the Serpent! "I have escaped!" I'm freed from sin's hold on me! I'm not dead in sin! I'm alive in Christ!

v.8- the Name of the LORD (=*Yahweh*) who made heaven & earth:

"As long as I see those two great monuments standing of God's power before me — HEAVEN AND EARTH — I will never be discouraged." (Thomas Manton)

NOTE:

✓God is creator — and He will judge (Jeremiah 51:15)
✓God is creator — there is NONE like him (Isaiah 45.12)
✓God is creator — he brings future Kingdom peace (Jeremiah 33.2)
✓God is creator — your husband, your Savior, redeemer (Isaiah 54.5)
✓God is creator — in trouble pray & affirm his creation & power (Isaiah 37.16)
✓God is creator - the heavens and earth will rejoice over God's destruction (Jeremiah 51.48)

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BLESS THE LORD O MY SOUL / 10,000 REASONS

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

PSALM 124 PSALTER

Tune: I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Now Isra-el may say, and that in truth:
if that the Lord had not our right maintained,
if that the Lord had not with us remained,
when cruel men against us rose to strive,
we surely had been swallowed up alive.

Yea, when their wrath against us fiercely rose,
the swelling tide had o'er us spread its wave,
the raging stream had then become our grave,
the surging flood, in proudly swelling roll,
most surely then had overwhelmed our soul.

Blest be the Lord, who made us not their prey;
as from the snare a bird escapeth free,
their net is rent and so escaped are we;
our only help is in Jehovah's name,
who made the earth and all the heav'nly frame.