

Psalm 125:1-5

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת	(A Song of Ascents)
הַבֹּטְחִים בַּיהוָה כִּהְר־צִיּוֹן לֹא-יִמּוּט לְעוֹלָם יֵשֵׁב:	Those who seek the LORD Are as Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved But abides forever .
יְרוּשָׁלַם הָרִים סָבִיב לָהּ וַיהוָה סָבִיב לְעַמּוֹ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם:	² Jerusalem: As the mountains surround her, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth ... and forever .
כִּי לֹא יָנוּחַ שֵׁבֶט הַרְשָׁע עַל גּוֹרֵל הַצַּדִּיקִים לְמַעַן לֹא-יִשְׁלְחוּ הַצַּדִּיקִים בְּעוֹלָתָהּ יָדֵיהֶם:	³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land of the righteous, Otherwise the righteous might put forth their hands to do wrong.
הִיטִיבָה יְהוָה לְטוֹבִים וְלִישָׁרִים בְּלִבּוֹתָם:	⁴ Do good, O LORD ... to those who are good And to those who are upright ... in their hearts.
וְהַמָּטִים עָקְלָקְלוֹתָם יִזְלִיכֶם יְהוָה אֶת-פְּעֵלֵי הָאָוֶן	⁵ But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways, The LORD will lead them away with the doers of iniquity.
שָׁלוֹם עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:	Peace be upon Israel.

Exegetical Outline/Structure of Text:

The reason Israel lives with confidence is because their right relationship with God results in stability for their lives and nation. (1-5)

The stability of those who trust in the Lord is comparable to the security of Jerusalem. (1-2)

The source for the stability of those who trust in the Lord is God's, who provides unending protection from all sides. (2)

The source for the stability of Jerusalem is because of the protection of the mountains that surround it. (2a)

The manner in which God surrounds His people is comparable to the way the mountains surround Jerusalem. (2b)

The manner in which God surrounds His people is unending protection (2c)

The reason that those who trust in the Lord have stability is because God will not allow wickedness to remain in their land. (3)

The manner in which wickedness will come upon the land is only in brief duration. (3a)

The reason that wickedness will not rule over the land of the righteous is so that wrongdoing will not be an attractive option for righteous people. (3b)

The expectation of the one who trusts in the Lord is that God will do good to the righteous and drive the wicked away. (4-5)

The request of the Psalmist to God is to do good to those who are righteous and upright in heart. (4)

The expectation of the Psalmist is that God will drive away those who are wicked away. (5a)

Movement of Psalm:

A Picture of Stability

The Reason for Stability

The Expectation of Stability

Exegetical Proposition/CPT:

The reason Israel lives with confidence is because their right relationship with God results in stability for their lives and nation.

Theme: The reason Israel lives with confidence

Thrust: Because their right relationship with God results in stability for their lives and nation.

Theological Proposition:

The reason we live with confidence is because our right relationship with God results in stability for our lives.

Purpose Bridge: To challenge my fellow DTS students to live with confidence, knowing that their right relationship with God results in stability for their life and ministry.

Homiletical Proposition/CPS:

Live with the confidence that comes from a right relationship with God.

Theme: Live with confidence!

Thrust: Because your right relationship with God results in stability for your life and ministry.

Homiletical Outline/Sermon Structure:

INTRODUCTION:

1. (Image) . . . Question: How many of you have had a sleepless night lately?
Move from them to me—two bad seasons in my life pursuing God’s calling.
Moving from me to we—do you ever feel compelled to abandon God’s work?
2. (Need) . . . We need confidence to pursue and complete God’s work for our lives.
3. (Subject) . . . Living with the boldness that comes from the stability of a right relationship with God.
4. (Text) . . . Psalm 125
5. (Preview) . . . Through the words of the Psalmist, we will see three things that give us confidence in the stability of our lives: a picture of protection, a reason for our security, and an expectation that God is actively securing us.

BODY:

- I. God is our Wall of Protection. (A Picture of Protection) v.1-2
 - A. The Psalmist’s analogy: the mountains that surround Jerusalem.
 - B. The Modern equivalent: the shields that protect a starship.
 - C. It is important to recognizing God’s protection of us.
 1. God has protected me in many ways: Preserving my computer, keeping me from physical harm in a car crash, and saving the home from a falling tree.
 2. God has undoubtedly protected you in many ways too, and you need to recognize and rejoice in his protection.
- II. God does not allow the righteous to be oppressed for long. (A Reason for Our Security) v.3
 - A. The righteous person knows that God only rewards good, not evil, and that is why the oppressor’s reign will always be brief.
 - B. We should endure oppression with the expectation that it will be of brief duration.
 - C. Illustration: The majority of movies always have the good triumphing in the end.
- III. We Need to Live Confident that God is on Our Side. (An Expectation that God will secure us) v.4-5
 - A. The Psalmist’s expectation was that God would do good to the righteous and drive the wicked from among those people.
 - B. We should expect that God will aid us and drive those who are working evil away.
 - C. Illustration: We should live with the confidence of the sports fanatic.
 - D. Confidence should keep us from giving up our pursuit of God’s calling to ministry goals and tasks because we experience failure or endure attacks.

CONCLUSION:

1. (Review your structure) . . . Remember the Psalmists...
Picture of Protection: God is our wall of protection. [Shield]
Reason: Oppression will only be of brief duration.
Expectation: God is actively at work securing us.
Summary Phrase: “God gives us the stability to live boldly!”
2. (Refresh your image) . . .
Image: I want my story from the past to be reflected in my future too. Sleepless nights will still come, but I want them to come because I am pursuing what God has for me to the utmost.
Summary Phrase: “God gives us the stability to live boldly!”