

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 121

4/2/13

Psalm 121 Who Is Our "Keeper?"

There is uncertainty regarding the author, time, or circumstances of these Psalms, but it is apparent [Psalms 120-134](#) work together, and are called the "Songs of Degrees," and sometimes "Songs of Ascension."

Verses 1-2 raise a cardinal point of faith;
Verses 3-8 reassure the believer that God is the Keeper.

Verses 1-2: (Verse 1) The Temple in Jerusalem was on "the hills," so it would be natural for an Israelite to look that way for help. So commonly was this believed, even the Syrians said: "The LORD *is* God of the hills, but He *is* not God of the valleys" ([1 Kings 20:28](#)). Then the question is asked: "From whence comes my help?"

(Verse 2) The believer knew then (as now) that "my help" is "from the LORD" and no one else! "LORD" represents the Hebrew name "Jehovah" who identified Himself to Moses ([Exodus 3:11-15](#)), and also was the Creator of "heaven and earth" ([Genesis 1:1](#)). The belief that the Creator and the Israelite God are different is a false belief.

Verses 3-8: (Verse 3) God doesn't allow the foot to slip back into continuous sin as the believer obeys His Word ([1 John 3:6](#)). That God provides for believers to falter from time to time is evident from [1 John 1:6-2:5](#). **(Verse 4)** The Keeper of Israel (under Moses' Law) will not "slumber" nor "sleep," there being little, if any, difference in the two. God is clearly not a sluggard ([Proverbs 6:9-11](#))!

(Verses 5-6) God is the cooling "shade," protecting from harsh rays of the sun and dangers that come under the "moon." God works 24/7 on behalf of His people. Today He calls His people "Christians" ([Acts 11:26](#)) who have been baptized into Christ ([Galatians 3:26-29](#)).

(Verse 7) God "keeps" His people from "evil." This is not a promise to protect them from what evildoers may do to them, but keep them from regular evil desires and practices. By their obedience to His Word, He keeps their "souls" from being lost (today is through Jesus' death, [Romans 6:1-14](#)).



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(Verse 8) God “keeps” the way the obedient will go free for coming and going (daily life) “from this time forth.” Jesus echoed this promise of security in the incident in [Luke 11:27-28](#): “And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, ‘Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!’ But He said, ‘More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!’” ([Luke 11:27-28](#))

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