

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

Psalm 124

4/5/13

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." This one is attributed to David.

Psalm 124

What If?

Verses 1-5 answer the question: "What would have happened without God?"
Verses 6-8 praise what God did do to help.

Verses 1-5: (Verse 1) God is on the "side" of those who do His will ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Acts 18:9-11](#)). Surely in David's life, we can see how narrowly he and Israel escaped from much worse than actually did happen. History and our individual lives hinge on a moment, an event, a time in our lives when we made decisions that decided our present life. Hindsight is always 20/20, and looking back is a sure way to "see God" in our lives. David is raising the issue of hindsight for his people. **(Verse 2)** Could they not see what God had done "when men rose up against us?"

(Verse 3) Israelites would have had no victories but been "swallowed" "alive" and suffered "wrath" "kindled against us." **(Verse 4)** It would have been overwhelming losses like a tidal wave, to the loss of their "soul." They, as a people, would have been exterminated, had not God intervened on their behalf. **(Verse 5)** "Then," whenever these incidents had occurred, the sheer force of wrathful people against them would have removed them from history.

Verses 6-8: (Verse 6) Praise God who stopped the crushing mouths of the attackers. **(Verse 7)** This deliverance is akin to a "bird" caught in the "snare of the fowlers," that is, Israel had been trapped, but God broke the snare and they could escape. **(Verse 8)** The God who "made heaven and earth" (Creator) is the LORD (Jehovah) with whom the promise of Abraham and the Law through Moses were being honored by the God who gave both.

Thought: God's promise to Abraham included "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you" ([Genesis 12:3](#)), which He still follows today. Christians are those whose faith had led them to saving baptism ([1 Peter 3:21](#); [Galatians 3:26-29](#)), and they are "Abraham's seed," not the physical Jewish people. Paul wrote to some and said: "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same

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things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up *the measure of* their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost" ([1 Thessalonians 2:14-16](#)).

All who persecute Christians will know the wrath of God upon them: "After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.'" ([Revelation 19:1-2](#))

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