

Title: Are We There Yet?
Pastor: Heinrich Titus
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a: a pilgrim's song

Psalm 120-134

Also called "Songs of Ascent"

Sung during Israelites journeys to Jerusalem.

b: our pilgrimage, our destination

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

c: Confidence for the journey

Psalm 120:1

«A Song of Ascents.»

¹ In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me.

d: Strength for the journey

Psalm 121:1-2

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence comes my help? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Companions for the journey

«A Song of Ascents. Of David.»

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."² Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!³ Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together,⁴ Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."⁷ Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

The pilgrim's songs: still a hit

Psalm 125:1-2

«A Song of Ascents.»

Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.

e: "As the mountains surround Jerusalem..."

The hills around Jerusalem

1. Mnt Moriah (*marah*): presence of the Lord
2. Mnt Bethsaida (*chesed*): mercy of the Lord
3. Mnt Scopus: a place of healing
4. Mnt Olive (*zatim*): passionate intensity in bringing new life.
5. Mnt Opel: to build up and to surround with a wall.
6. Mnt Zion (*Tziyyon*): a stonghold and fortress
7. Mnt Chareb (*calvary*): place of sacrifice.

our assurance

Isaiah 54:10

¹⁰ For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.