

## Psalm 120, Bible Study Outline

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1. Authorship: Unknown; traditionally David
2. Occasion: Bringing Doeg to remembrance, some manuscripts have “David prays against Doeg” (Cf. 1 Samuel 22:9-23; Psalm 52 header)
3. “A Song of Ascents”, or “Degrees”, the first of 15 (Psalms 120-134) comprising the “Little Psalter”, marked by brevity
  - a. Sung on the ascent to Jerusalem for public worship to celebrate the three pilgrim feasts (Deuteronomy 16:16; Cf. Psalm 122:1)
4. 120:1, an intense prayer in a time of intense trouble
  - a. “He heard me”, cause taken to the right place, Hebrews 4:16
  - b. What is your intense prayer today?
5. 120:2-4, verbal and slanderous attacks make greater and deeper wounds than swords do, James 3:6-10 applied
  - a. “coals of the broom tree”, known in that day as that which keeps burning for a long time, easier to keep words in than take words back, apply e.g.’s in our own experience/life
6. 120:5, “Meshech”, Genesis 10:2, a son of Japheth who migrated north of the land, “tents of Kedar” in the forests of Arabia (Isaiah 21:16), living as nomads, in view as spiritual nomads, not so for we Christians have “a peg in His holy place” (Ezra 9:8)
7. 120:6, the inappropriateness of Christ’s children keeping close fellowship with His enemies, consider how unfit Doeg was to be in the presence of the Lord’s priest as he attended to his religious duties, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 applied
8. 120:7, We are for Christ, “peace” personified, Isaiah 9:6 applied
  - a. For compassionate and lawful discourse
  - b. Matthew 5:9 applied
  - c. Opposition of those who “are for war”, discord, lawlessness, cancel culture (even against Bible verses in schools now!)
  - d. Notwithstanding, onward we go in our own “Song of Ascents” daily to meet our God, and find solace in that, we have made our cry for justice, let us leave the Doeg’s of the world to God, and enter into His rest, to be continued...Psalms 121-134.