

## Psalm 120

# "The Psalmist's Lament over Deceitful Warmongers"

(A Song of Ascents)<sup>1</sup>

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### **A1 HIS CRY TO YAHWEH FOR DELIVERANCE FROM A DECEITFUL TONGUE Psalm 120:1-2**

#### **B1 His Successful Troubled Cry 120:1**

C1 His Troubled Cry to Yahweh: *{1}* In my trouble I cried to the LORD,

C2 Yahweh's Answer: And He answered me.

#### **B2 The Content of His Request -- Deliverance 120:2**

C1 From Lying Lips: *{2}* Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips,

C2 From a Deceitful Tongue: From a deceitful tongue.

### **A2 HIS PRONOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT UPON THE DECEITFUL TONGUE 120:3-4**

#### **B1 The Question of the Destiny of the Deceitful Tongue 120:3**

C1 *{3}* What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you,

C2 You deceitful tongue?

#### **B2 The Pronouncement of Judgment 120:4**

C1 Arrows: *{4}* Sharp arrows of the warrior,

C2 Fire: With the *burning* coals of the broom tree.

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<sup>1</sup> Superscription: "The title "song of ascents" identifies each of Psalms 120-134 as a pilgrim song to be sung when the Israelites "ascended" (went up) to Jerusalem for the annual feasts. Four of these 15 psalms are ascribed to David (Pss. 122; 124; 131; 133), 1 to Solomon (Ps. 127), and the other 10 are anonymous." (Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary (TBKC)*)

**A3 HIS FRUSTRATION WITH WARMONGERS <sup>2</sup> 120:5-7**

**B1 The Location of the Warmongers 120:5**

C1 {5} Woe is me, for I sojourn in Meshech,<sup>3</sup>

C2 For I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

**B2 His Frustration with His Warlike Neighbors 120:6**

C1 {6} Too long has my soul had its dwelling

C2 With those who hate peace.

**B3 Their Antithetical Outlooks 120:7**

C1 He is For Peace: {7} I am *for* peace, but when I speak,

C2 They Are Warlike: They are for war.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 120

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<sup>2</sup> Warmongers: "A person who is strongly in favor of war or attempts to bring about war." The World Book Dictionary, Vol. II, © Copyright 1987, by Doubleday & Company, Inc. JTB: The anonymous psalmist's frustration might well be echoed by most Israelis today. They are surrounded by Muslim factions who devote their whole existence to exterminating Israelis and the nation of Israel. They will come close, but will not succeed (Zech. 13:7-9).

<sup>3</sup> 120:5 - Meshech ... Kedar: "The pilgrim lamented his having to **dwell in** the midst of **those who hate peace** (vv. 5-6). **Meshech** (Gen. 10:2) and its barbarous people lived in the far north. **Kedar** (in northern Arabia) was where some nomadic Ishmaelites lived (cf. Gen. 25:13). The psalmist was saying that these two names represented the enemies that surrounded him." (Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*)