

## Psalm 123 <sup>1</sup>

# "Dependence on Yahweh Elohim Because of Scornful Neighbors"

(A Song of Ascents.)<sup>2</sup>

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.  
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

### **A1 DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE UPON YAHWEH ELOHIM 123:1-2**

#### **B1 Personal Focus upon Transcendent God 123:1**

- C1 Conscious Movement: *{1}* To Thee I lift up my eyes,
- C2 Toward Him Seated in the Heavens: O Thou who art enthroned <sup>3</sup> in the heavens!

#### **B2 Corporate Declaration of Dependence 123:2**

- C1 The Human Illustration of Dependence
  - D1 Dependent male slaves: *{2}* Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* to the hand of their master,
  - D2 Dependent female slave: As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- C2 The Point of Comparison
  - D1 Longing gaze: So our eyes *look* to the LORD our God,
  - D2 Awaiting grace: Until He is gracious to us.

---

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 123 - This Song of Ascents was evidently composed to be sung en route to worship at the sanctuary in Jerusalem. The Psalmist was surrounded by those filled with contempt and scoffing. Thus, he directed his prayer upwards for grace. Franz Delitzsch (K&D) suggests a possible Maccabean setting, but absent proof, I leave it in a pre-exilic setting along with the preponderance of attributed psalms (122, 124, 131, 133 [David] and 127 [Solomon]).

Truthfully, contempt by surrounding nations has typically been Israel's lot. As of this writing (April, 2006), the call of the "Palestinian" Charter for Israel's extermination has never been withdrawn. The "Palestinians," the Muslim world at large, the pro-"Palestinian" European Union and United Nations all fit this category of those who are arrogantly contemptuous of God's chosen, albeit disobedient nation.

One of Israel's most vehement neighbors is Iran. Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on October 26, 2005, repeated a remark from a former ayatollah that Israel should be "wiped out from the map," insisting that a new series of attacks will destroy the Jewish state, and lashing out at Muslim countries and leaders that acknowledge Israel. (CNN.com; <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/10/26/ahmadinejad/>; posted Thursday, October 27, 2005.)

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 123 Superscription - Song of Ascents: See note on Psalm 120.

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 123:1 - enthroned: Literally "the one sitting in the heavens." Usually this word is translated "dwelling" or "abiding" or "living," but its root meaning is "to sit down." If one is sitting down, he is comfortable and at rest. NASB translators took it a step further to suggest that God has to be sitting on something, so since He is the Supreme Ruler, it must be a throne (see also NIV). Here, the AV is more customary – "thou that dwellest in the heavens."

**A2 PLEA FOR GRACE BECAUSE OF THE CONTEMPT OF THE PROUD 123:3-4**

**B1 Corporate Plea for Grace 123:3**

C1 Double Plea for Grace: {3} Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us,

C2 Need for Grace: For we are greatly filled with contempt.

**B2 Corporate Need for Grace 123:4**

C1 Scoffing: {4} Our soul is greatly filled With the scoffing of those who are at ease,

C2 Contempt: *And* with the contempt of the proud.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 123

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

April, 2006, updated August 27, 2019

[WordExplain.com](http://WordExplain.com)

Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.  
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)