

## Psalm 124

# "Israel's Praise to Yahweh for Intervention against the Assaults of Surrounding Nations"

(A Song of Ascents,<sup>1</sup> of David.<sup>2</sup>)

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### **A1 A CONTEMPLATION OF YAHWEH'S NON-ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL 124:1-5**

#### **B1 The Contemplation of Yahweh's Non-Advocacy 124:1-2**

C1 {1} "Had it not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say,

C2 {2} "Had it not been the LORD who was on our side When men rose up against us,

#### **B2 The Projected Disasters of Yahweh's Non-Advocacy 124:3-5**

C1 Swallowed Alive 124:3

D1 {3} Then they would have swallowed us alive,<sup>3</sup>

D2 When their anger was kindled against us;

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 124 Superscription - Song of Ascents: See note on Psalm 120.

<sup>2</sup> Ps 124 Superscription - of David: According to Charles C. Ryrie (*Ryrie Study Bible*), "The deliverance could refer to various times in Israel's history, but, if this psalm refers to deliverance from Babylonian captivity, then David could not have written it. (The superscription was added later.)"

More specifically, Franz Delitzsch (K&D) states that the Hebrew word "of David" is not found in the LXX, nor in the Codices *Alexandrinus* and *Vaticanus*. It is furthermore not found in the ancient versions, with the exception of the Targum.

<sup>3</sup> 124:3 - swallowed us alive: No clearer contemporary illustration could be given than the founding of the modern state of Israel. Influenced by Godly men in Britain who wished to establish a homeland for the Jewish people, and in contrition for the extermination of millions of Jews in the Nazi holocaust, the United Nations finally authorized the founding of the Jewish State of Israel on May 14, 1948. But the British, for political purposes, allowed the neighboring Arabs to all but sabotage the event. The fledgling state of Israel, from the moment of its birth, was almost overwhelmed by a tidal wave of onslaughts from the surrounding Arab nations. From a human point of view, Israel, a tiny enclave dwarfed by the massive Arab population surrounding it on all sides except its western sea access, should have been overwhelmed by the Arabs. But it was not, because God had it in mind to reestablish Israel as a nation, and there was nothing mankind could do to prevent it! The rebirth of Israel is all the more amazing considering the present advocacy of the United Nations on behalf of the so-called Palestinians and its antipathy toward Israel.

- C2 Utterly Drowned 124:4-5
- D1 {4} Then the waters would have engulfed us,
- D2 The stream would have swept over our soul;
- D3 {5} Then the raging waters would have swept over our soul."

**A2 IN PRAISE OF YAHWEH, ISRAEL'S DELIVERER 124:6-8**

**B1 Blessings upon Yahweh 124:6**

- C1 Pronouncement of Blessing: {6} Blessed be the LORD,
- C2 Reason for Blessing: Who has not given us to be torn by their teeth.<sup>4</sup>

**B2 The Metaphor of Israel's Escape 124:7**

- C1 The Escaped Bird: {7} Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper;
- C2 The Broken Snare: The snare is broken and we have escaped.

**B3 Concluding Praise of Yahweh 124:8**

- C1 The Name of Israel's Help: {8} Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C2 The Power of Israel's Help: Who made heaven and earth.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 124

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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WordExplain.com

P. O. Box 527

Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845

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

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<sup>4</sup> 124:6 - torn by their teeth: This psalm, even from ancient times, underscores the fact that Israel's survival as a nation is directly attributable to Yahweh's intervention! Praise to Yahweh for keeping His timeless promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! If God does not keep His promises to Israel, the Church has no assurances that Christ will keep His promises to her!