

Zion, A Mountain Secure

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever” (Psalm 125: 1-2).

In the song of ascents, further progression has been made. Faith, which, through the gospel builds upon prior faith (Romans 1:17), has now grown. In the Psalm 124 we find it glorying in God’s mighty deliverance from certain death. Christ has broken the snare and we are free. The singer is now ready, not only to testify but to preach, to prophesy, to make bold statements about what is, what shall surely be, to declare in uncertain terms what can be expected in the future. To do this it draws on history, the past. God does not change. What He has done in the broken snare will not be frustrated by anything the enemy may do in the future. Faith also has the sight of those hills of Psalm 121 forever engraved on the mind. It is that imagery he now employs.

The church, the saints, are themselves a mountain, Mount Zion. As such they are established, fixed forever. They abide. How long? The oceans and seas may dry up and disappear, mountain heights may be blown away in dust, but he who does the will of God abides forever. Like a mountain, the church is permanent, immovable and invincible forever.

Not only is the church a mountain as Zion, as the hill of Zion they are garrisoned, surrounded by mountains. It is not surrounded in the sense of being besieged, stifled, shut up. Christ, the Door of the sheep-fold, gives us liberty to “go in and out and find pasture for our souls” (John 10:9). This is a wonderful mystery of the gospel! The enemy is locked out, but we are not locked in!

The church is rather sentinelled as mount Zion, by peaks around the city. These stand as protective guards between them and their abundant foes. It is not said that angels do this (although they are so employed), but God Himself, the Almighty Holy one. He is the One Who keeps Israel, who does not grow weary, neither slumbers and sleeps. It is true today. It will be so tomorrow. It will be the same forever.

Moreover this security is not an outward, objective protection only. It is certainly that, but it is also an inward, subjective one. *“The scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous reach out their hand to iniquity”* (vs.3). Sin shall not have dominion over us for we are under the scepter, the government and rule of grace (Rom. 6:14). There is no law against the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23). Christ has broken the snare of sin, delivered us from its penalty, its curse and its dominion. God has given us one heart, one way so that we will not depart from Him forever (Jer.32:39-40).

- C. M.