

Psalm 121 (NIV84)

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-  
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip-  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD watches over you-  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all harm-  
he will watch over your life;

8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

At times like this when something threatens the lives of so many people, and so many lives are taken, people will often speculate: is this the judgment of God? God knows we deserve His wrath and judgment. Like the wayward world in which we live, we too have each gone our own way, stubbornly refusing to live according to God's perfect will. Oh yes, we all deserve to become infected with this virus and perish.

So, is this the judgment of God? Actually we just saw the judgment of God on Good Friday, and we saw how that turned out. Our Lord Jesus took the judgment of God upon Himself -- the judgment we all deserve -- and He paid our debt in full. In fact, He even announced from the cross: "It is finished!"

So no, COVID-19 is not the judgment of God. However, there are times when the Lord will position us so that we can more readily look to Him (when you are laying flat on your back, the only way to look is up). The Lord always wants us to lift up our eyes to Him. And don't doubt it for a minute, He will watch over our world, our nation and you!

Under God's watchful eye with you,  
Pastor Golm

April 14

## Eyes Lifted Toward the Father's House

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord. Psalm 121:1-2

The story is told of a young man who was tired of life. Surrounded by difficulties which to him seemed insurmountable he turned to his closest friend and said: "I have looked to the left, and I have looked to the right, but I can find no help." To which his friend replied: "Why don't you try the upward look?"

The upward look! How often we forget it! In days of trial and trouble we often find ourselves giving way to faithless worry, as though we had no Father in the Father's house above. Frantically we scan the horizontal horizons for help, and forget that the first, pleading glance of the troubled Christian must always be a vertical look toward heaven.

Frequently it is in the school of affliction that the eyes of the Christian are trained heavenward. This was particularly true of King David, the man who wrote the words of Psalm 121. The life of David was filled with tragedy.

The words of the hymnist "I walk in danger all the way" could be applied to David more than to the lives of most of us. On more than one occasion he had come within an inch of death. Only after long and bitter days in the dungeon of adversity did he learn to say with unwavering confidence: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord."

Have we learnt to say and to do just that? In every day of trouble let us remember that we have a Father in the Father's house to whom we can go with every hurt, every fear, and every sorrow. We know that for Jesus' sake our Father loves us!

My Jesus, as Thou wilt. All shall be well for me; Each changing future scene I gladly trust with Thee.

Thus to my home above I travel calmly on And sing in life or death: My Lord, Thy will be done.