

A The Lord knows (Psalm 139).

- ❖ David knows that his entire life is transparent before God (Ps. 139:2-3). God already knew him before he was born, since God was who made him grow in his mother's womb (Ps. 139:13-16).
- ❖ You can meet God wherever you go. If it ascends to the highest (heavens), He is there; If you go down to the depths (Sheol), He finds you; If you turn to the east (the wings of dawn), He guides you; If you head west (the end of the sea), his hand defends you (Ps. 139:7-10).
- ❖ There is no place so dark that it can hide you from God (Ps. 139:11-12). But David does not seek to flee. He wants and desires to be examined by God. Try to live a righteous life that pleases God, turning away from evil (Ps. 139:17-23).
- ❖ If you fail, God will make your paths straight (Ps. 139:24). Is this your experience with God?

B The Lord cares (Psalm 121).

- ❖ No matter how desperate your situation, God hears (Ps. 130:1-2). He acts on our behalf (Ps. 9:10). There is hope for everyone who seeks the Lord's favor (Ps. 16:8).
- ❖ In Psalm 121 we find a description of our Helper, Help and Guardian:
 - He will not allow us to slip on the path of life (v. 3)
 - He constantly watches over us (v. 4)
 - He gives us physical and spiritual refuge (v. 5-6)
 - He is always at our side to defend us (v. 7)
 - He will take care of us at all times and in all places (v. 8)
- ❖ Where to go to seek help in difficulty? To the mountains? To economic power? To the political powers? To our family and friends? (Ps. 121:1).
- ❖ All of them can fail us. There is only One who never fails (Ps. 121:2).

C The Lord defends (Psalm 17).

- ❖ Confident in a life consistent with what God expects from him, David asks him to be his defender (Ps. 17:1-5).
- ❖ The psalmist uses the metaphor of birds to tell us about how God defends us (Ps. 91:4). He also uses military language to tell us about his active defense (Ps. 91:4).
- ❖ Other metaphors include the "shelter," the "shadow," the "castle," the "right hand" (Ps. 91:1-2; 17:7-8). All of them talk to us about protection and security.
- ❖ Without a doubt, we have a Lord who defends us in all adversity. Let us turn to Him. Let us take refuge under his shadow.

D The Lord delivers (Psalm 114).

- ❖ Psalm 114 expresses in a brief and poetic way the way in which God smoothed the difficulties for his people to reach the Promised Land: the [Red] sea saw God and fled (v. 3a); the Jordan River turned back (v. 3b); the mountains and the hills leaped (v. 4)
- ❖ As Creator, God used his power over nature to free his people. Won't He do the same for us today?
- ❖ Like them, we too have been miraculously delivered from sin, and our journey to Heavenly Canaan is fraught with danger (mountains and hills). But before the Lord "the earth trembles" (Ps. 114:7).

E The Lord hears and saves.

- ❖ God dwells on high, but from there He hears and saves (Ps. 20:2; 3:4; 1Ki. 8:30).
- ❖ For this reason, we can confidently approach Him with the certainty that we will be heard (Heb. 4:16).
- ❖ But what can He do from his sanctuary? Give salvation (Ps. 14:7); keep us from evil (Ps. 27:5); provide for our needs (Ps. 36:8); defend the defenseless (Ps. 68:5); strengthen us (Ps. 68:35).
- ❖ When people maintain a right relationship with God through repentance and acceptance of His grace and forgiveness, they can invoke God's guarantee of deliverance. The Sanctuary service represented the salvation found in Jesus.