

# **The Psalms of Ascents**

**Tuesday**

Psa. 120:1 – Footnote 1<sup>1</sup>

Psa. 122:1-3

Before we go on to the third stage, let us briefly review the first and second stages starting from Psalm 120. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Book of Psalms. There are 8 verses that begin with each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, making 176 verses in total. After this Psalm, we come to the Psalms of Ascents. The topic of these psalms is experiencing God's dealing in the church life until we arrive at a mature testimony. The whole Psalms of Ascents is to bring us into the church life. Only in the church life can we experience God's dealing to the extent that we arrive at the maturity of life. It is impossible for us to a Christian alone. If we want to be a Christian, we must be together with all the other brothers and sisters. We must live a church life with all the other brothers and sisters. All God's work today is in the church life.

The Psalms of Ascents give us a picture of how someone began to love the Lord and enter into the church life. The first point is that we must leave the world to enter into the church life. Psalm 120:1 says, "In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me." Previously he was in the world; he lived in Meshech and among the tents of Kedar. That environment was filled with tongues of deceit and lying lips. He desired to escape from this world to come to God's presence. Then he was rescued by God and started to go forward.

Psalm 121 shows how he was helped by God. Then in Psalm 122 he enters into the church life: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.' Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together" (vv. 1-3). This is to enter into the church life. Here there is the throne of David. To pray for the peace of Jerusalem is to enter into the church life.