

# Treasure Hunt

- What common feature leads us to study Psalms 120-134 as a group?
- What might “the ascents” refer to?
- What does the meaning “steps” suggest about the compiler of these Psalms?
- When did people “go up” to the temple?
- Why are the words of Num 6:24-26 echoed in these Psalms?
- How do Psalms 120-124 form a diary of a typical pilgrimage?
- What ties Psalms 120 and 124 together? how about 121 and 123?
- What difference did this pilgrimage make in the daily life of the pilgrim? (Compare 120 and 124.)
- How do we “go up to the house of the Lord” today?

# Structure of Book 5

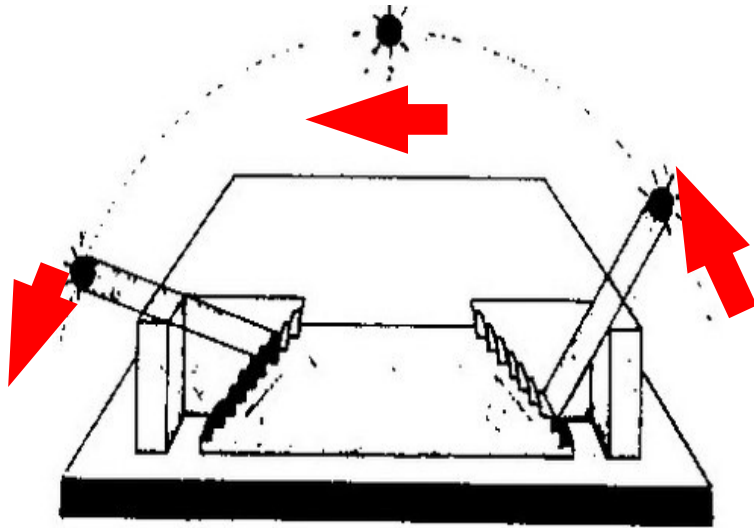


<http://messianicfellowship.50webs.com/TR-epi-ish.jpg>

<p>107, Suffering, coming <b>to the land</b>: ידה</p>	<p>120-134, Ascents: Coming <b>to the Temple</b></p>
<p>108-110, Psalms of David</p>	<p>135-137, ברך, ידה, memory of suffering</p>
<p>111-112, Acrostic (111 Works of the Lord)</p>	<p>138-145, Psalms of David</p>
<p>111-117, Hallelu-Yah</p>	<p>145, Acrostic (Works of the Lord)</p>
<p>118-119, Torah (Acrostic) and Messiah Pair</p>	

# What are “the ascents”? 1. Stairsteps

<http://www.britam.org/picturesYair/dial.jpg>



<https://thedaughterofzion.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/pilgrims-to-jerusalem.jpg>

2Ki 20:8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall **go up** into the house of the LORD the third day? 9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten **degrees**, or go back ten **degrees**? 10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten **degrees**: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten **degrees**. 11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten **degrees** backward, by which it had gone down in the **dial [steps]** of Ahaz.

Isa 38:20 The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

2Ki 19:14 Hezekiah **went up** into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

1Ki 10:5 [Solomon's] **ascent** by which he **went up** unto the house of the LORD;





# What are “the ascents”? 2. Pilgrims “Going Up” to Jerusalem

<https://artlevin.com/product/pilgrimage-to-the-second-jerusalem-temple/>

Ezr 7:9 For upon the first day of the first month began he **to go up** from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, ... [“that was the beginning of the ascent ...”

Exo 34:23 Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt **go up** to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.

# Taking One's Spiritual Temperature

## **Healthy: Longing for Temple Fellowship**

Psa 42:4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. ... 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. 4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

## **Sick: Scorning Temple Fellowship**

2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel. ... 5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: ... 10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. 11 Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.



# The Levitical Blessing

Num 6:22 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 23 Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,



<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/XtBntgRAR80/sddefault.jpg>

24 The LORD bless thee,	Ps 128
and keep thee:	Ps 121
25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:	Ps 123
26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.	Ps 122

27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

# Psalms 120-124 as a Pilgrimage Diary



120, 124	Motive for Pilgrimage: Affliction from Men
121, 123	Protection on the way: "lift up mine eyes"; Lord's <b>keeping</b> (121) and <b>mercy</b> (123)
122	Goal: <b>Peace</b> in Jerusalem



# Parallels to 124:7

“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.”

David:

1Sa 26:20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth **hunt a partridge** in the mountains.

Sennacherib:

As to Hezekiah, the Jew, ...  
Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like **a bird in a cage**.



David Castor, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6586365>