Pilgrimages take you through dangerous places sometimes. This psalm of ascent acknowledges this. As the pilgrim prepares for the journey to Jerusalem where he will participate in one of the festivals of the faith, he thinks about the trip ahead. It will take him through the mountains where danger is often present. It will take him through some hot days, and some dark nights. Will he be safe? Is there anyone who can go along to serve as a protector on the trip?

There is One who protects His people—even the God of Israel. He comforts and encourages his heart with this wonderful truth—he is traveling under divine protection. He states this wondrous truth in very simple, everyday kind of language, but he has given a psalm that God’s people have delighted to sing across the ages.

The son of Israel was on his pilgrimage to Jerusalem where he would enter the house of God, but New Covenant pilgrims are on their way to the New Jerusalem where they will enter the eternal House of God. Just as the Old Covenant pilgrim traveled under Divine protection, so does the New Testament pilgrim. Did not our Lord Jesus promise “I will be with you
always, even to the end of the age.” So we have a wonderful promise of heavenly protection.

I. THE PROTECTION COMES FROM THE LORD.

1. He is able to provide the protection.

2. He is faithful to provide the protection.

II. THE PROTECTION COVERS ALL SITUATIONS.

The extent of the coverage gives good encouragement.

1. It covers times of struggle.

“He will not allow your foot to be moved.”

2. It covers times of discomfort.

“The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.”

3. It covers times of danger.

“The Lord shall preserve you from all evil.”

4. It covers times of busyness.

“The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in.”

III. THE PROTECTION COVERS ALL OF OUR DAYS.

1. The present day.

“From this time forth.”

2. The future.
“And even forevermore.”

So we are kept by the Guardian of our souls, the Shepherd of our lives. Let’s continue the journey with confidence and peace of heart. We are safe!

Blessed be the name of our Keeper!