

“THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME”—DELIVER ME

PSALM 120

Introduction:

Life in this old world can become mighty uncomfortable to a person whose heart is set on the Lord. When God gives to you a new heart, one that is turned toward Him in love, you never feel at home in this world any more. Even the ancient psalmist knew this experience.

This is the first of the psalms of ascent. Evidently these songs, written by different men at different times, were collected into a mini-hymnbook to be used by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for one of the great festivals of the faith. The first is a prayer for deliverance from this old world. It is the kind of prayer that John prayed in Revelation, “Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.!”

We do not know who wrote this psalm. But we do know that he was a man of prayer. It has been his pattern to turn to the Lord in prayer when troubles came his way. “In my distress I cried to the Lord, and He heard me.” He took his covenant relationship with the Lord seriously, and assumed that the Lord would hear him and help him in a time of distress. Surely all pilgrims can assume such.

He was also a man of peace. “I am for peace.” Literally it reads, “I am peace.” He has been given a new heart—a disposition toward peace always. In every situation it was his inclination to give priority to peace—to speak peacefully and to act in a way that will promote peace. But his peaceful acts and words seem to make little difference—the response still seems to be hostility.

Interestingly the pilgrim is on his way to Jerusalem which means “city of peace.” He longs for permanent dwelling in the “city of peace”. So he is praying for deliverance from this old world and resettlement in the “city of peace.” This is probably your situation if you are attempting to walk with God in this world. You have days in which this prayer will be very comfortable on your lips and will truly express your heart.

I. THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME BECAUSE IT IS A WORLD OF DECEPTION.

“Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.”

1. In the world of religion.
2. In the world of government.
3. In the world of personal relationships.
4. In the world of business.

II. THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME BECAUSE IT IS A WORLD
UNDER JUDGMENT.

“What shall be given to you, or what be done to you, you false tongue?

Sharp arrows of the warrior, with coals of the broom tree.”

1. The judgment is certain.
2. The judgment is severe.

III. THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME BECAUSE IT IS A WORLD
OF STRANGERS.

“Woe is me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of
Kedar! My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace. I am for
peace; but when I speak of peace, they are for war.”

1. This brings misery.
2. This creates hostility.

So this world is not my home! I am ready for the New Jerusalem. There is
something better than this, and I want it now—so “deliver me, O Lord.” Do
you feel like a pilgrim?