

# THE LORD IS MY KEEPER AND MY PROTECTOR GOD'S PROVIDENCE

**TEXT:** Psalm 121

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. The religious world is an environment of extremism.
2. Some allege, for example, that if God does exist, he has no contact at all with humanity. They believe Him to be distant and disinterested.
3. Others, by way of contrast, assert that virtually every activity of God is a miracle.
  - a) Miracles, they allege, are occurring in abundance everyday.
  - b) Such a view cannot be supported by the facts.
    - 1) The Scriptures plainly indicate that supernatural signs served a unique function in the divine scheme of things, and they are not being duplicated today.
    - 2) See 1Corinthians 13:8.
4. A correct view recognizes that Jehovah operates in the affairs of men, but not miraculously; rather, God works through the process we call "providence."

## **I. DEFINING OUR TERMS:**

- A. The English term "providence" is taken from the Latin "providential", which signifies "foresight."  
Providence has to do with:
  1. God maintaining the functional balance of the natural world;
  2. The fulfillment of God's divine purpose in regulating of international affairs.
  3. God's special operation in the lives of those who seek to do his will.
- B. Before we consider each of these areas, it is necessary that we discuss the nature of providence. Exactly what is this phenomenon?
  1. Providence is the activity of God as accomplished **through law**.
  2. It stands in contrast to the miraculous, by which the Lord operates **independent of law (supernatural)**.
  3. In providence, Jehovah uses his own natural laws for the accomplishment of His ultimate purpose.
  4. God respects man's free will, and He will never overpower our freedom of choice in the use of providential activity; nevertheless, the Bible clearly teaches that God is active providentially.
  5. It is a process that we simply cannot explain from our limited vantage point.
  6. We accept it because of our confidence in the credibility of the biblical record.

## **PSALM 121, THE PROVIDENTIAL PSALM:**

### **WHERE DO I LOOK FOR PROTECTION:**

- A. I Will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
- B. From where shall my **help** come?

### **THE ANSWER:**

- A. My **help** comes from the LORD,
- B. Who made heaven and earth.

### **IN WHAT WAY DOES HE HELP ME:**

- A. He will **not allow** my foot to slip (vs. 3)
- B. The Lord is your shade on your right hand (5b -6).
  - 1) Metaphorically: protects me from the elements.
    - a) The sun will not smite you by day.
    - b) Nor the moon by night.
- C. The LORD will **protect** you from all evil (vs.7).

D. He will **keep** your soul (7b).

E. The LORD will **guard** your going out and your coming in

**HE NEVER FAILS OR FORGETS TO CARE FOR HIS OWN:**

A. He who **keeps** you will **not slumber** (vs.4).

B. Will **neither slumber nor sleep** (vs. 4).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Behold, He who **keeps** Israel

2. The LORD is your **keeper;**

3. **From this time forth and forever.**

4. Let God's people thus rejoice, and live each day with calm confidence, knowing that the Lord is near, and that Heaven's operations through providence are an abiding presence in our daily existence.