

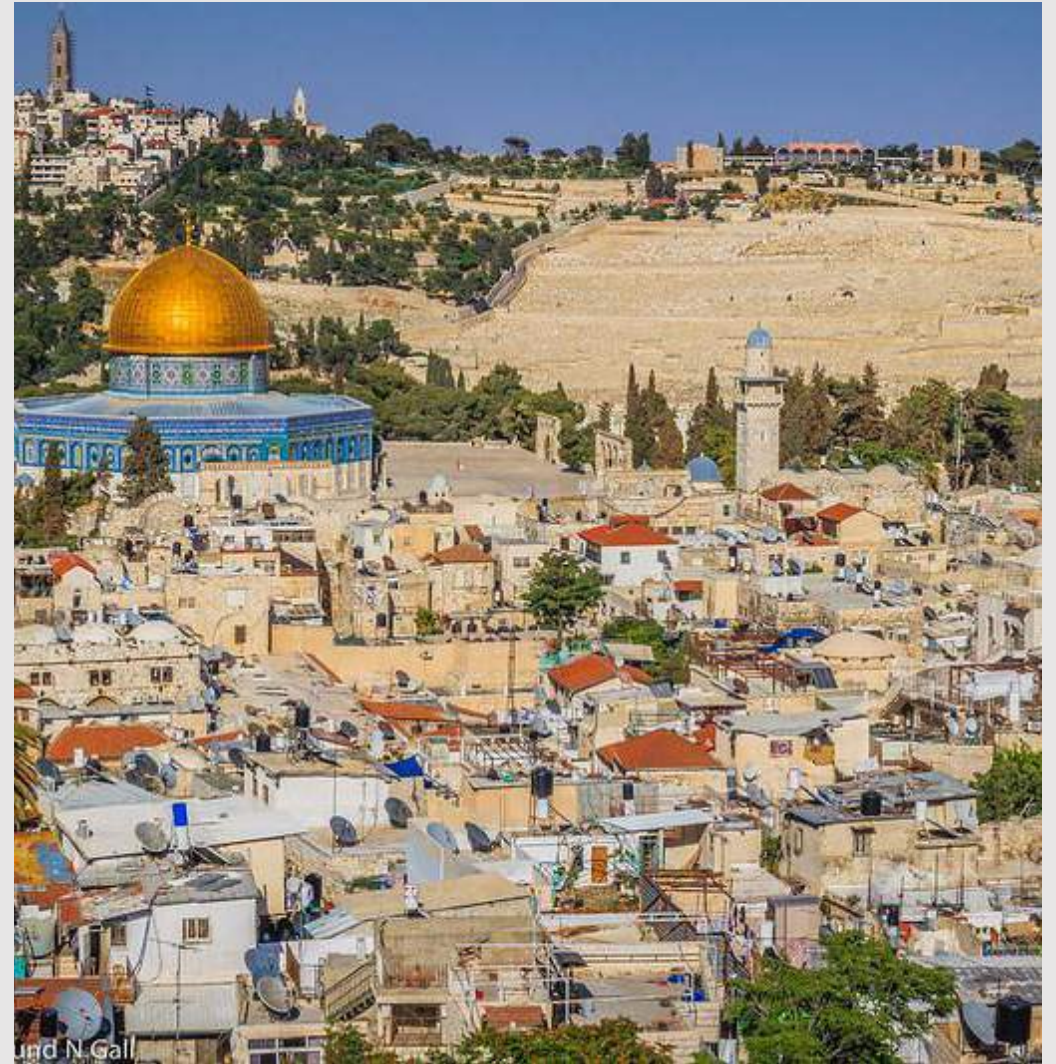
# Psalms 120-134: Songs of Ascents

**Heb. 13:14** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Faith is not the clinging to a shrine,  
but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.

- Abraham

Joshua Heschel





- Ps 120
- Ps 123

- Ps 121
- **Ps 124**

- Ps 122
- Ps 125

**In Trouble, God is Near**

# Psalm 124: A Song of Ascents. Of David.

<sup>1</sup> If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—  
let Israel now say—

<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
when people rose up against us,

<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;

<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone the raging waters.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth!

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped!

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the  
LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

As a boy David fought lions and bears



# David the warring King

**2 Samuel 21:22** These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

**2 Samuel 22:1** And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

<sup>2</sup> He said, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

<sup>3</sup> my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold and my refuge,  
my savior; you save me from violence.

<sup>4</sup> I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies.



**2 Samuel 22:5** “For the waves of death encompassed me,  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

<sup>6</sup> the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>7</sup> “In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I called.

From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry came to his ears.

<sup>8</sup> “Then the earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations of the heavens trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.

<sup>9</sup> Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;  
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

# King David – musician and writer

3 Have mercy on us, LORD, ha  
for we have endured no e  
4 We have endured no end  
of ridicule from the arrog  
of contempt from the pro

**Theme:** God delivers us from those who  
of those who seek him.  
**Author:** David, probably written after his

**124** A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 If the LORD had not been on  
let Israel say<sup>v</sup> –
- 2 if the LORD had not been o  
when people attacked r
- 3 they would have swallow  
when their anger flar

es for judgment” are the courts of justice by the  
e times, the elders in a town sat to hear cases  
justice at the gate (Ruth 4:1, 2). Sometimes the k  
the gate to meet his subjects and make le  
were 2



	<b>Psalm 124</b>	<b>2 Samuel 22</b>
<b>Context</b>	Delivered from “the people”	Delivered from Philistines during war, and from Saul who hunted David
<b>Imagery</b>	Swallowed up alive	Waves of death
	Flood, torrent, raging waters	Torrents of destruction
	Prey to their teeth, snare of the fowlers	Cords of Sheol, snares of death
<b>God helps</b>	If the Lord had not been on our side Our help is in the name of the Lord	The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer
<b>God is all-powerful</b>	Who made heaven and earth	The foundations of the earth trembled, devouring fire from His mouth



## What enemies did King David have?



King David, who ruled Israel in the 10th century BCE, had many enemies during his reign. Some of the most notable ones were:

- Saul, who was the previous king of Israel and held a grudge against David for being chosen as his successor by God. Saul pursued David for years, trying to kill him.
- The Philistines, who were a powerful neighboring people that often fought against the Israelites. David had several battles with them, including the famous one in which he killed Goliath.
- The Ammonites, who were another neighboring people that David defeated in battle.
- Absalom, who was David's son and led a rebellion against him.
- Adonijah, who was another of David's sons and also rebelled against him.

Additionally, there were other enemies of Israel during David's reign, such as the Moabites, the Edomites, and the Amalekites. David also had conflicts with some of the Israelite tribes, such as the Benjaminites and the Levites.



# 1 Danger and death are close-by

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# Gunung Rinjani, Lombok, Indonesia



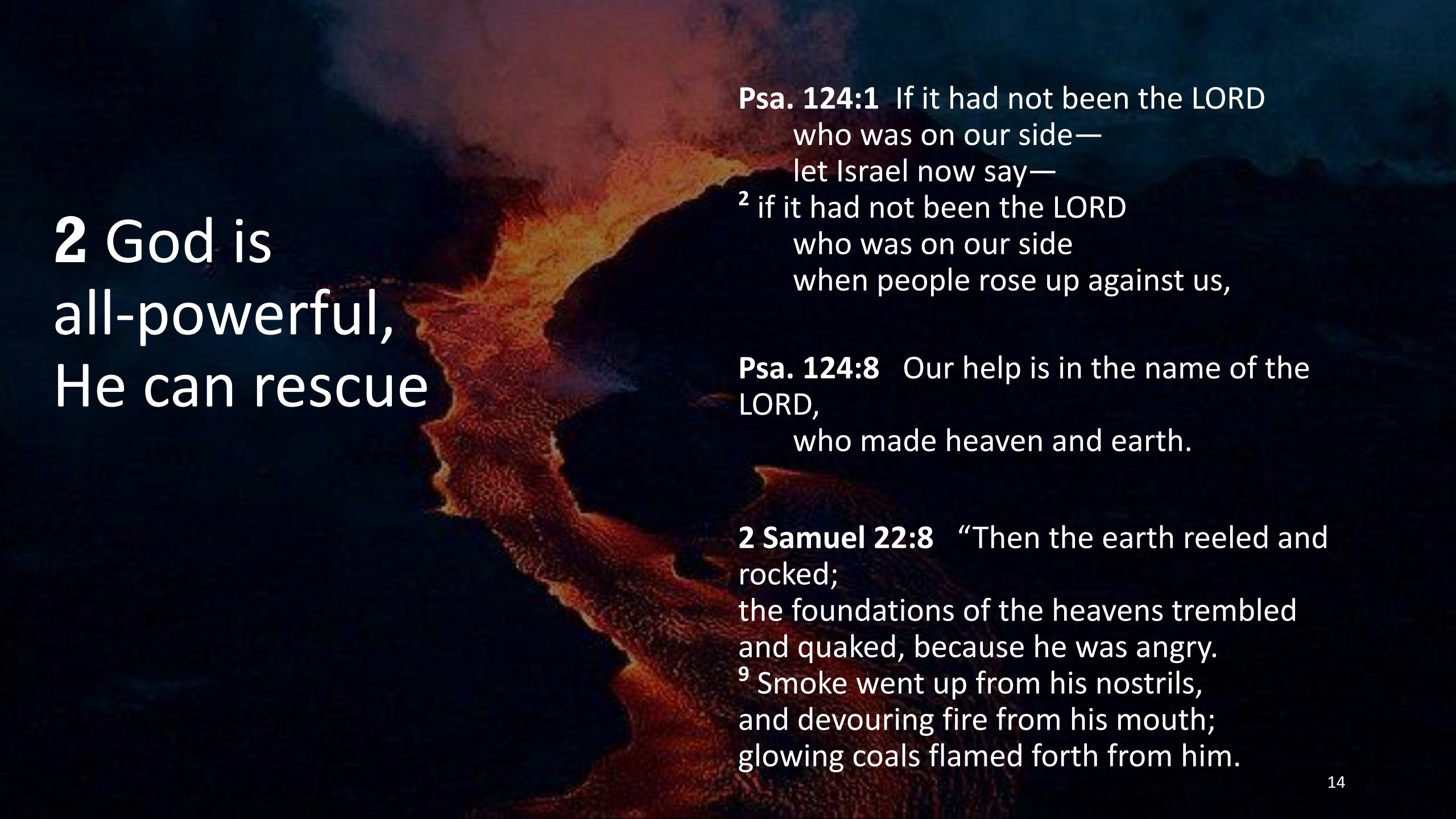
# Threats we face

- Health
- Accidents
- Abuse
- Economic threats
- Crime





**2** God is all-powerful,  
He can rescue



**2** God is  
all-powerful,  
He can rescue

**Psa. 124:1** If it had not been the LORD  
who was on our side—  
let Israel now say—  
<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD  
who was on our side  
when people rose up against us,

**Psa. 124:8** Our help is in the name of the  
LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**2 Samuel 22:8** “Then the earth reeled and  
rocked;  
the foundations of the heavens trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.  
<sup>9</sup> Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;  
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

# 3 God is closer to us than death



2Cor. 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Psa. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength,  
**a very present help in trouble.**

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth  
gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart  
of the sea,  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Matt. 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and  
bear a son,  
and they shall call his name **Immanuel**”  
(which means, **God with us**).

# The words of Jesus

Matt. 28:20 ... And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”



Youtube documentary

**If You actually exist, I want to physically touch You.**

## **Psalm 124: In trouble, God is near**

1. Danger and death are close by
2. God is all-powerful, He can rescue
3. God is closer to us than death



# Psalm 91

<sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> **I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my  
fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.

# Psalm 91

**9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—**

the Most High, who is my refuge—

**10** no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.

**11** For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

**12** On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

**13** You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will  
trample underfoot.

**14 “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will  
deliver him;**

I will protect him, because he knows my  
name.

**15** When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.

**16** With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”