Ascent Lyrics

Psalm 120A I Cried in Trouble to the LORD

- I cried in trouble to the LORD,
 And He has answered me.
 From lying lips and crafty tongue,
 O LORD, my soul set free.
- 2. What shall be given you, false tongue; What added to your doom? Sharp arrows from a warrior's bow, And red-hot coals of broom!
- 3. Alas for me that I've sojournedSo long in Meshech's land,That I have made my dwelling whereThe tents of Kedar stand!
- 4. Too long my soul has made its home With those who peace abhor.

 I stand for peace, but when I speak,
 They then prepare for war.

Psalm 120B I Cried in Trouble to the LORD

- 1. I cried in trouble to the LORD,And He has answered me.From lying lips and crafty tongue,O LORD, my soul set free.
- 2. What shall be given you, false tongue; What added to your doom? Sharp arrows from a warrior's bow, And red-hot coals of broom!
- 3. Alas for me that I've sojourned So long in Meshech's land, That I have made my dwelling where The tents of Kedar stand!

4. Too long my soul has made its home With those who peace abhor.

I stand for peace, but when I speak,
They then prepare for war.

Psalm 121A I Lift My Eyes and See the Hills

- I lift my eyes and see the hills;
 From where will come my aid?
 My help comes only from the LORD
 Who heav'n and earth has made.
- 2. He'll not allow your foot to slip,Nor rest while you He keeps.The One preserving Israel,He slumbers not, nor sleeps.
- 3. The LORD will keep you, He's your shade; The LORD stands at your right. The sun will do no harm to you, Nor will the moon at night.
- 4. The LORD will keep you from all harm; He'll keep your life secure.
 Your going out and coming in
 The LORD keeps evermore.

Psalm 121B I Lift My Eyes and See the Hills

- 1. I lift my eyes and see the hills; From where will come my aid? My help comes only from the LORD Who heav'n and earth has made, Who heav'n and earth has made.
- 2. He'll not allow your foot to slip,Nor rest while you He keeps.The One preserving Israel,He slumbers not, nor sleeps.

He slumbers not, nor sleeps.

3. The LORD will keep you, He's your shade; The LORD stands at your right.
The sun will do no harm to you,
Nor will the moon at night,
Nor will the moon at night.

4. The LORD will keep you from all harm; He'll keep your life secure.
Your going out and coming in The LORD keeps evermore.

The LORD keeps evermore.

Psalm 121C Unto the Hills I Lift My Longing Eyes

1. Unto the hills I lift my longing eyes;
Whence comes my aid?
The LORD's my help, the heavens and the earth
By Him were made.
Your foot from stumbling He will always keep;
The One who guards your life will never sleep.

2. He who keeps Isr'el slumbers not nor sleeps
By night or day.
The LORD keeps you, a shade on your right hand
The LORD will stay.
Throughout the day the sun will never smite,
Nor will the moon afflict you in the night.

3. You will be safe, protected by the LORD,By His control.From every evil that may come your wayHe'll keep your soul.While you go daily out and in your door,The LORD will keep you now and evermore.

Psalm 121D I Lift My Eyes and See the Hills

I lift my eyes and see the hills;
 From where will come my aid?
 My help comes only from the LORD
 Who heav'n and earth has made.

2. He'll not allow your foot to slip,Nor rest while you He keeps.The One preserving Israel,He slumbers not, nor sleeps.

3. The LORD will keep you, He's your shade;The LORD stands at your right.The sun will do no harm to you,Nor will the moon at night.

4. The LORD will keep you from all harm; He'll keep your life secure.Your going out and coming in The LORD keeps evermore.

Psalm 122A I Was Filled with Joy and Gladness

1. I was filled with joy and gladness When I heard them say to me: "Let us make our pilgrim journey, Then the LORD's house we will see." We were standing! We were standing! In your gates, Jerusalem! (Salem) In your gates, Jerusalem!

2. In Jerus'lem, built securely,
There the tribes—the LORD's tribes—go.
This is Isr'el's obligation,
To the LORD's name thanks they show.
There, for justice, there, for justice,
Stand the thrones of David's house, (David's house)
Stand the thrones of David's house.

3. For Jerusalem's wellbeingIntercede and pray for peace:

"All the ones who truly love you,
May they prosper and increase.
Peace and safety, peace and safety
Be within your walls and towers, (walls and towers)
Be within your walls and towers."

4. I will say, "May peace be with you!"
For my friends' and brothers' sake.
For the LORD's house, our God's temple,
This my purpose I will make:
Your wellbeing, your wellbeing,
I will seek with all my heart, (all my heart)
I will seek with all my heart.

Psalm 122B Now to the LORD's House Let Us Go!

1. "Now to the LORD's house let us go!" These words made me rejoice.
Our feet are standing in your gates,
Jerusalem the strong!
There do the LORD's own tribes go up –
This is the rule in Israel –
The LORD's great name to glorify
Where David's thrones of judgment stand.

2. Pray for Jerus'lem's peace, and may
They prosper who love You.
Peace be within your mighty walls!
Your fortresses have rest!
Then for my brothers and my friends
I'll say, "May peace be found in you;
And for the LORD our God's own house,
Your good I ever will pursue."

Psalm 123A I Lift My Eyes to You

I lift my eyes to You
 Enthroned above the skies.
 As slaves look to their master's hand,

To you I lift my eyes.

- 2. As to her lady's handA slave girl turns her face,So we look to the LORD our GodThat He might show us grace.
- 3. Show us Your grace, O LORD,Let us Your favor know;For we are filled with their contempt,And all the scorn they show.
- 4. Our souls have had their fillOf scoffing and contempt,From those who live a life of ease,And from the arrogant.

Psalm 123B I'm Lifting Up My Eyes to You

- I'm lifting up my eyes to You,
 In heaven is Your throne.
 As servants watch their master's hand,
 Or as a maid's eyes wait
 Upon her mistress' hand,
- 2. So our eyes, waiting, now attendUpon the LORD our God,Until He shows His grace to us.Be gracious to us, LORD,Be gracious unto us;
- 3. For we are burdened with contempt.Our soul is greatly filledWith all the scoffing insolenceOf those who live at ease,And with the proud's contempt.

Psalm 124 Unless the LORD Had Been There

- "Unless the LORD had been there on our side!"
 Let Israel now testify to this:
 "Unless the LORD had been there on our side
 When cruel men against us rose to strive,
 They would indeed have swallowed us alive."
- 2. "And when against us they with anger burned, Swept by fierce waters, we would all have drowned; Swift streams engulfing, torrents pulling down, Floodwaters raging with their mighty waves Would then have dragged us down as to the grave."
- 3. Blessed be the LORD who snatched us from their teeth!

For, as a bird would from its trapper flee, Our snare is torn and from it we are free! Yes, in the LORD's name is our only aid, By whom the heavens and the earth were made.

Psalm 125 All, Like Mount Zion, Unmoved Shall Endure

- All, like Mount Zion, unmoved shall endure Whose confidence in the LORD is secure.
 Like hills encircling Jerus'lem around,
 Always the LORD will His people surround.
- 2. No wicked ruler for long will remainOver the righteous ones' chosen domain,Lest righteous men yield to evil too strong,Putting their hands to commit what is wrong.
- 3. LORD, to the good and the upright in heart Show goodness; but make the crooked depart. All who do evil the LORD will expel; O let Your peace rest upon Israel.

Psalm 126A The LORD Brought Zion's Exiles Back

1. The LORD brought Zion's exiles back -

We were like dreaming men:
Our tongues were filled with shouts of joy
And laughter once again.

- 2. "The LORD has done great things for them,"The nations were agreed.The LORD has done great things for us,And we rejoice indeed!
- 3. As streams revive the desert, LORD,Our exiles now restore.Then those who sow their seed in tearsShall reap with joy once more.
- 4. Though sowing seeds is weary toil, And he who scatters weeps, He'll come again and shout for joy With sheaves of grain he reaps.

Psalm 126B When Zion's Captive Ones Returned

- 1. When Zion's captive ones
 Had, by the LORD, returned –
 How like a dream!
 Our mouth was filled with joy,
 With laughter and delight;
 Our tongue then overflowed
 With shouts of joy.
- 2. In Gentile lands they said,
 "Great things the LORD has done,
 Great things for them!"
 How the LORD made us glad!
 Great things He's done for us!
 Bring back our exiles, LORD,
 Like desert streams.
- 3. Those who now sow in tearsWill reap at harvest time,And shout for joy.

That one who sows with tears Bearing his bag of seed, Will come with shouts of joy, Bringing his sheaves.

Psalm 127A Unless the LORD Build Up the House

- Unless the LORD build up the house,
 Its builders build in vain;
 Unless the LORD the city guards,
 Its watchmen watch in vain.
- 2. How vain to work long days, late hours –To eat with toil and cares;For even so, His loved ones sleep;This gift with them He shares.
- 3. One's sons are gifts, the LORD's reward;By Him the womb bears fruit.The children of one's youth are likeThe arrows warriors shoot.
- 4. How happy is the one who has
 His quiver filled with these!
 They'll bear no shame when, at the gates,
 They speak with enemies.

Psalm 127B Unless the LORD is He Who Builds the House

- Unless the LORD is He who builds the house,
 Those building it do all their work in vain.
 Unless the LORD will keep the city safe,
 Those keeping watch have stayed awake in vain.
- 2. Your early rising surely is in vain,And your delay in lying down again,Your eating bread that comes through painful toil—For after all, He gives His loved ones sleep.

- 3. See how the LORD gives children as a gift, And fruitful wombs are surely His reward. Like arrows ready in a warrior's hand, So are the children one conceives in youth.
- 4. Whoever has his quiver full of them, Let him be counted as a happy man. They will not be ashamed before their foes, When speaking with them in the city gate.

Psalm 128A How Blessed Are All Who Fear the LORD

- How blessed are all who fear the LORD, And walk within His ways.
 You'll eat your labor's fruit with joy, And prosper all your days.
- Your wife within your house will be
 A vine whose fruits abound;
 Your children will as olive plants
 Your table gather round.
- 3. Behold, thus shall the man be blessedWho truly fears the LORD.The LORD from Zion give to youHis blessing and reward.
- 4. O may you see, throughout your days,Jerus'lem prosper well.May you your children's children see.Peace be on Israel!

Psalm 128B Blessed Are All Who Fear the LORD's Name

Blessed are all who fear the LORD's name, And who walk within His ways.
 When you eat of your hands' labor,
 You'll be blessed throughout your days.
 In your house your wife will prosper

Like a vine whose fruits abound; And like olive plants, your children At your table gather round.

2. So the man who fears the LORD shall In this way great blessing know.May the LORD from out of Zion Blessings rich on you bestow.May you see Jerus'lem prosper All your days, until they cease.May you see your children's children.On all Israel be peace!

Psalm 129

Time and Again They Greatly Did Oppress Me

- 1. "Time and again they greatly did oppress meFrom my youth up," let Israel declare,"Time and again they greatly did oppress meFrom my youth up, yet they did not prevail."
- 2. "They plowed my back like farmers plowing furrows;

So they have made their gouges deep and long." But yet the LORD is righteous in His dealings; The ropes of lawless men He cut apart.

3. Let them be shamed and turned back in confusion,

All those who bear toward Zion bitter hate. Let them become like grass upon the housetops That shrivels up before it is full grown.

4. With these the reaper cannot get his hand full, Nor can the binder fill his arms with sheaves. None passing says, "The LORD give you His blessing,"

None calls out, "In the LORD's name we bless you."

Psalm 130A

LORD, From the Depths to You I Cried

1. LORD, from the depths to You I cried.My Lord, give ear to me;O hear my voice and listen toMy supplicating plea,My supplicating plea.

2. LORD, who could stand if You, my Lord, Marked each iniquity?
But You are One who pardons sin,
That You may rev'renced be,
That You may rev'renced be.

3. I wait, my soul awaits the LORD;My hope is in His word.Yes, more than watchmen wait for dawn,My soul awaits my Lord,My soul awaits my Lord.

4. O Israel hope in the LORD; The LORD saves graciously, And Israel He shall redeem From all iniquity, From all iniquity.

Psalm 130B LORD, From the Depths I Cried to You

- LORD, from the depths I cried to You.
 O let my voice be heard, my Lord;
 O make Your ears attentive now,
 And listen to my pleading word.
- 2. Lord, who could stand if You, O LORD, Marked each infraction of Your law?But pardon can be found with YouSo that You're feared with rev'rent awe.
- I wait, my soul awaits the LORD,And from His word my hope is drawn.

My soul awaits my Lord far more Than watchmen wait and wait for dawn.

4. O Israel, hope in the LORD; Redeeming love abounds with Him. The LORD will ransom Israel To set him free from all his sin.

Psalm 131A My Heart is Not Exalted, LORD

- My heart is not exalted, LORD,
 Nor haughty is my eye.
 I do not deal in matters great,
 Or things for me too high.
- I have composed and calmed my soul,
 I'm like a little child;
 Now weaned, he on his mother rests
 With soul subdued and mild.
- 3. Yes, like a child who has been weaned,My soul is calmed in me.Hope in the LORD, O Israel,Now and eternally.

Psalm 131B My Heart is Not Exalted, LORD

- My heart is not exalted, LORD,
 Nor haughty is my eye;
 I'm not involved with matters great,
 Or things that are for me too high.
 Yes, I've composed my soul
 And now it quiet lies.
- 2. My soul becomes now like a child Weaned from his mother's breast;Yes, like a child who has been weaned,And on his mother finds his rest.O Isr'el, in the LORD

Forever put your trust.

Psalm 132A For the Sake of David

- 1. For the sake of David,
 Turn Your thoughts, O LORD,
 To the things he suffered,
 Hardships he endured.
 Then he made a promise
 Vowing to the LORD—
 Mighty One of Jacob—
 Unto Him he swore:
- 2. "My house I'll not enter,
 There I'll not repose;
 I'll not let my eyes sleep,
 Nor my eyelids close,
 Till I find a dwelling
 Where the LORD would live—
 Mighty One of Jacob—
 Him a house I'll give."
- 3. It was first in Ephrath We heard news resound: In the field of Jaar, There it had been found. At His place of dwelling, Let us enter in; Gathered at His footstool, Let us worship Him.
- 4. LORD, now rise and enter
 With Your ark of might
 To that place of resting,
 Pleasing in Your sight.
 Let Your priesthood serve You,
 Clothed in righteousness;
 Let Your saints with singing
 Joyfulness express.

Psalm 132B For Your Servant David

5. For Your servant David,For his sake, I pray:From Your own anointed,Do not turn away.

6. For the LORD to David Solemn vows once spoke; Making him a promise He will not revoke:

7. "I will have your offspring Sit upon your throne If they keep My cov'nant, Making it their own."

8. "If they hold My teachings,If they will obey,Then their sons foreverOn your throne will stay."

Psalm 132C For the LORD Has Chosen Zion

9. For the LORD has chosen Zion;There He has desired to be:"This My resting place forever;Here I'll stay, it pleases Me."

10. "I'll bless her provision richly; I'll her poor with bread sustain, Clothe her priests with My salvation, Then her saints for joy will sing.

11. I'll make David's power flourish,My anointed's lamp prepare;I with shame his foes will cover;He a shining crown will wear."

Psalm 133A Behold How Very Good It Is

1. Behold how very good it is,A pleasant thing to see;When brothers join to live as oneIn peace and unity!

2. Yes, it is like the precious oilPoured out upon the head,Which, running down from Aaron's beard,Upon his garments spread.

3. It is as though Mount Hermon's dewOn Zion's hills descends;For there the LORD bestowed the giftOf life that never ends.

Psalm 133B Behold How Very Good It Is

1. Behold how very good it is,A pleasant thing to see;When brothers join to live as oneIn peace and unity!

2. Yes, it is like the precious oilPoured out upon the head,Which, running down from Aaron's beard,Upon his garments spread.

3. It is as though Mount Hermon's dewOn Zion's hills descends;For there the LORD bestowed the giftOf life that never ends.

Psalm 134A Come, Bless the LORD

1. Come, bless the LORD now all you servants of the LORD.

You serving nightly in the LORD's house, come and bless the LORD, While to His holy place you lift your hands up high.

The LORD from Zion bless you, He who made the earth and skies.

Psalm 134B Bless the LORD All You His Servants

- Bless the LORD, all you His servants,
 As you serve with one accord;
 Bless the LORD in your night watches
 In the dwelling of the LORD.
- 2. Lift your hands within His temple; Bless the LORD, and raise them high. May the LORD bless you from Zion, He who made both earth and sky.