

May 13 Answers

- 1) David's psalms. Some of them are part of a collection of fifteen psalms (120–134) which all have the title, "A Song of **Ascents**." It is likely that these songs were sung by those who traveled up the mountain to Jerusalem for the three annual **festivals**. As such they are **pilgrim** songs, songs which express anticipation and joy at the thought of worshiping God. Psalm 122 proclaims the pilgrim's eagerness to reach Jerusalem: "I was **glad** when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Upon arrival, the pilgrim offered a prayer for the **peace** of the city: "Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" How appropriate it is to pray for the safety and security of the place where we have the freedom to worship God! Psalm 124 reflects on the many dangers Israel faced over the years by those who wanted to destroy them: "Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as **prey** to their teeth! Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth." This teaches us to remember God's help in the past and rest on His promise for the future. Psalm 131 speaks of the pilgrim who rejects **pride** and presumption and quiets his soul before God: "Like a weaned child is my soul within me." What a beautiful picture of the **contentment** that is found when we fully surrender to God's will. Psalm 133 celebrates the fellowship of the saints: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in **unity**!" This reminds us how important it is to complete the joy of Christ by being of the same mind with our fellow believers (Phil 2:2).