

SERMON TITLE: **This Is The Way: To Zion**

TEXT: **Psalms 121**

INTRODUCTION.

In this sermon, we will learn about living with the perspective of a sojourner. Against the backdrop of pilgrims traveling from Babylonian captivity to celebration, rest, and worship in God's Holy City. We will learn that we too are on the road between captivity and celebration AND that THIS road forms and transforms us for life as God's people in His city.

DISCUSSION.

Compare your life today with how you were 5 or 10 years ago. In what ways are you now living into the identity of someone "just passing through" rather than someone "settling down"?

EXAMINATION.

READ Psalm 121. What is the mood of the pilgrims on this long winding road through the hills leading up to Jerusalem? To what things might they be vulnerable? How much would nightfall impact these vulnerabilities? When do you feel most vulnerable?

Do you like to travel or do you dread it? What sort of "dangers" lie ahead on road trips? Have you ever experienced any of these? How do you prepare and protect yourself? Have you ever known God's protection over you? In what form did that protection arrive? What form does God's protection usually take, can every "traveler" expect to experience what you experienced?

What comfort do the travelers in Psalm 121 anticipate and receive for the journey? What comfort do these verses offer us as "aliens and strangers" in this world? Does the comfort in these promises make you feel invincible or trepidatious? What "dangers" lie ahead on the road when the journey is a spiritual journey intended to form and transform us into the image of Jesus? How do you prepare for these dangers (*Eph. 6:10-18*)? Have you ever known God's protection over you in this regard?

The word "sojourner" comes from the Latin phrase, "*sub diurnus*", meaning "for a day," and it conveys the idea of someone who lives in a place "temporarily, as on a visit." In what ways does living as "aliens and strangers", "pilgrims on the road to Zion", here and now transform us into a people fitted for God's city in eternity?

APPLICATION.

- Have you begun "the journey"? If not, what one thing will you do this week to "hit the road"? What one thing can your church or small group do to help you as you travel "this road"?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?