



**hope and without God in the world”** (Ephesians 2:11-12). This is the situation of anyone without God! When we are without God we are sandwiched between our enemy and an impassable sea.

a child (cf. Hebrews 11:11). Without God they would have died childless. Without God Isaac and Jacob never would have been born. Without God Israel would never have been a nation.

### Is The Lord on Our Side?

Without God, like Israel, we are helpless. Paul reminded the Ephesians that they were formerly **“separated from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no**

On the other hand, with God we have life! Jesus described Himself as **“the way, and the truth, and the life”** (John 14:6). Paul described Jesus’ sacrifice by saying, **“But God... even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ”** (Ephesians 2:4-5). Paul continues, **“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ”** (Ephesians 2:13). When we were completely helpless, God stepped in and offered us salvation.

Just as David asked Israel, I ask you to consider what life would be like **“had it not been the Lord who was on our side”** (Psalm 124:1). When we consider all that Jehovah has done for us we are left to conclude with David, **“Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us to be torn by their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper; the snare is broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”** (Psalm 124:6-8). Let us offer Him the worship He deserves.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 16.27 July 6, 2014

ISSUE

16.27

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

July 6,  
2014

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

## Deacons:

Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

## Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow



## “Had Not the Lord Been on Our Side”

Psalm 124 By Andrew Dow

The 124th Psalm is described as “a song of ascents.” This description is applied to songs that would have been sung by the children of Israel as they ascended the temple mount to offer worship to God. Songs of ascent often remind the worshipper of why God deserves careful and committed worship. Psalm 124 explains how God has been with Israel throughout their history and, therefore, deserves unending praise. David writes, **“Had it not been the Lord who was on our side, Let Israel now say, ‘Had it not been the Lord who was on our side when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the waters would have engulfed us, the stream would have swept over our soul; then the raging waters would have swept over our soul’”** (Psalm 124:1-5, NASB).

David offers an interesting scenario that we would do well to consider. What if God had not been on Israel’s side? What if Israel was abandoned and left on their own? Would their history have been any different?

## Israel's History WITH God

We first read of the nation of Israel in the form of a promise to Abraham. The Lord spoke to Abraham saying, **"I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great"** (Genesis 12:2). This promise is made especially intriguing when we discover that Sarah was unable to give birth (cf. Genesis 15:1; 16:1-2). How could it be that a mighty nation would descend from a man and woman who had not yet had children and



were now past the age of having children? **"The Lord said to Abraham, '...Is anything too difficult for the Lord?'"** (Genesis 18:13-14). Jehovah undoubtedly played a role in bringing about a child for Abraham.

Fast forward to the story of Abraham's great-grandson, Joseph. You may recall that after having two dreams, Joseph's brothers angrily sold him into slavery. Despite these unfortunate circumstances we read, **"The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man"** (Genesis 39:2). After Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison we're told, **"The Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him"** (Genesis 39:21). Finally, years later when Joseph confronts his brothers he humbly says, **"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive"** (Genesis 50:20). Again, can anyone doubt the role of God in bringing about these results?

Move forward to the Egyptian bondage. While in the land of Egypt, the people of Israel grew numerically. It came about that Egypt's king enslaved the Israelites and forced them to do manual labor. When the situation looked irreversible, God spoke to Moses, **"Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.... Certainly I will be with you"** (Exodus 3:10-12). The next several chapters of Exodus describe how God demonstrated His power over Egypt's false gods. After the tenth plague, **"all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt"** (Exodus 12:41). The Lord did just as He always intended to do.

Finally, consider the confrontation between Israel and Egypt immediately following the exodus. After letting Israel go free, Pharaoh **"made his chariot ready and took his people with him.... Then the Egyptians chased after them with all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea"** (Exodus 14:6, 9). Once again, we find the Israelites in a situation in which they are entirely helpless on their own. **"Do not fear,"** Moses powerfully encouraged the people, **"Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today.... The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent"** (Exodus 14:13-14). The salvation of the Lord was accomplished by God's pillar of cloud standing between the people and their enemy (Exodus 14:19-20), the Lord powerfully parting the sea before them (Exodus 14:21-22), and the Lord closing the sea over Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14:26-27).

## Israel's History WITHOUT God

We have quickly examined four incidents that led to Israel becoming the great nation God promised to Abraham. Now let's ask the question, what if God had not been on Israel's side?

If God was not on Israel's side, Pharaoh would have quickly overtaken them and returned them to Egyptian bondage! Remember, Jehovah stood between Egypt and Israel as they left the land. Remember, God is the one who parted the Red Sea. If Israel was without God, they would have been quickly and decisively conquered.

If God was not on Israel's side, Israel would have remained slaves in Egypt! Remember, it was only due to the power that God exerted through the plagues that Pharaoh was moved to let Israel leave the land. If you remove God from the equation, Israel is nothing more than a race of slaves.

If God was not on Israel's side, Joseph would have gone to Egypt and died in prison. Remember, the only reason Joseph prospered in Egypt was due to God's love and care. Furthermore, if God did not care for Joseph as He did, then Jacob and his family would have undoubtedly died by the hand of the severe famine.

Finally, if God was not on Israel's side, Abraham and Sarah never would have had a child. Remember, it was God who caused Sarah to conceive