PSALM

120

CXX

Lament Ascent

Writer not named · Book V · Songs of Ascents

"A Song of Ascents."

PICTURE WORD

Coals

IN ONE SENTENCE

Surrounded by lying lips and people who want war, the psalmist cries out to the LORD for rescue and longs for peace.

Remember it: One-twenty: I'm for peace, but lying tongues want war.

MEMORY VERSE

In my distress, I cried to Yahweh. He answered me.

Psalm 120:1 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

שֶׁקֶר

"lie" · verse 2

In the Psalms: 22 times, in 14 psalms

שֶׁקֶר means "lie" or "falsehood," something empty that deceives. The ninth commandment forbids being a "false witness" using this word. The psalmist is wounded by lying lips, and the punishment fits: the tongue that shot words like arrows will meet the sharp arrows of the mighty.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–2	In distress I cried, and the LORD answered me
3–4	The lying tongue will meet sharp arrows and burning coals
5–7	I live among haters of peace; I am for peace

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 120 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/120**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress · Enemies & Betrayal · Waiting on God

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Surrounded by _____ lips and people who want _____, the psalmist cries out to the LORD for rescue and longs for _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What does the psalmist ask to be delivered from?

- (A) Wild beasts
- (B) Lying lips and a deceitful tongue
- (C) Hunger
- (D) Sickness

2. What kind of coals are mentioned?

- (A) Coals of cedar
- (B) Coals of oak
- (C) Coals of olive wood
- (D) Coals of juniper

3. When the psalmist speaks for peace, what are they for?

- (A) War
- (B) Trade
- (C) Silence
- (D) Feasting

TALK IT OVER

1. This is the first Song of Ascents. Why might a pilgrim journey begin with feeling far from home?

2. What does verse 1 teach us about how the LORD treats those who cry to him?

3. How can Christians be people of peace in a world where words are often used as weapons?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 120 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say verse 1 by heart
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: lying · war · peace · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 2) · 2. D (v. 4) · 3. A (v. 7)