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**BIB 316**

**WORKSHEET 12: SONGS OF ASCENT**

- 1) How many psalms are in the Songs of Ascent [1]
  - a. There are 15 psalms in the Songs of Ascent.
  
- 2) In your own words, give 4 potential meanings for the term “Song of Ascents” [8]
  - a. Songs of Ascent could mean song of recollection and praise; of the journey the Hebrews had on their way to Jerusalem and how God has brought them through,
  - b. Songs of Ascent could mean the songs of meditation. Psalms that are used for clarity, prayer, one on one conversation with God.
  - c. Songs of Ascent could mean songs of assurance. Confident that God will keep His promise.
  - d. Songs of Ascent could mean songs of thanksgiving because of their return. Like people singing/rejoicing because they are returning home.
  
- 3) What is the most important *leitmotif* that unifies Psalm 121 [1]

The most important leitmotif that unifies Psalms 121 is when a term is used in one line and then echoed in the next.
  
- 4) How does the Mishnah explain the meaning of the term, “Song of Ascents” [1]

Mishnah compared the “Song of Ascent” to the 15 steps from the court of the women to the court of Israel in the temple complex. They were similar to the songs that the Levites used to sing psalms on.
  
- 5) Describe two potential factors that unify the Songs of Ascent as a collection [4]

Two common things that were found that unifies the Songs of Ascent as a collection was the fascination with Zion and its diversity.
  
- 6) Explain what the term “pre-exilic” means? [2]

Pre-exilic means before the exile of the Jews.



7) Name two pre-exilic Songs of Ascent [2]

a. Psalms 122→

b. Psalms 132 →

8) Is God ever portrayed as being asleep in the Old Testament. Explain your answer [2]

In the Old Testament, God is portrayed as a God who never sleeps or slumbers. It talks about Gods protecting grace over us. Psalms 121:3b-4 says, “The one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.”

9) What is the basic content of 2Sam 7, and which of the Songs of Ascent reflect that content? [3]

2Samuel 7 is basically about Gods covenant with David because David desired to build a house for God. As a result, God promises to bless David and make his name known forever. He promises to bless the line of David. David in return praises God in astonishment and thanks God for His blessing. The Songs of Ascent that I think reflects 2Samuel 7 is Psalm 120 and 121 because of the thanksgiving for heard and answered prayers. Psalms 132 also reflects on Gods promise with David .

10) Write down a verse from the songs of Ascent that uses an anthropomorphism [2]<sup>1</sup>

\*This was hard.

Psalms 121:6, “The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night”

Psalms 124:4, “The waters would have engulfed us; a torrent would have overwhelmed us”

124:6b, “who did not let their teeth tear us apart”

11) How many books are in the Psalter [1]

The psalter is divided into 5 books with a total of 150 chapters.

12) Write down from your own imagination, a chiasmic bi-cola [2]

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<sup>1</sup> Always use one line per colon when you are asked to write down a verse from scripture, or to write your own verse.



I was made to control time, not time to control me.

13) Write down one verse from Psalm 121 that uses a merismus that is split between two cola  
[2]

Vs. 8: “the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore”

Vs.5/6, “the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night”

Vs. 2, “my help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!”