

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

PSALMS 120-128

To clarify matters, and avoid confusion, the Almighty has always designated one place on earth where man could meet with Him.

God offers a hotspot where you can come *online* with the *divine*.

Today, that “hotspot” is “in Christ Jesus.”

In Old Testament times it was the Temple in Jerusalem.

The next 15 psalms – 120-134 – are titled “*A Song of Ascents.*”

Some commentators translate the phrase “*A Song of Steps,*” and relate these 15 songs to the 15 steps inside the court of Herod’s Temple.

The best understanding though of these psalms is that they were sung by the Hebrews as they journeyed to the Temple. Jerusalem sits atop five mountains. To reach the city from any direction it requires an ascent.

Exodus 34:24 commanded the Jews to appear in Jerusalem three times a year to celebrate the festivals of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

These were the songs sung by the pilgrims as they made their journey.

On our tours to Israel as the bus climbs the mountain toward Jerusalem I love to get out my Bible and read a few of these psalms of ascents.

It gives you a feel of what it was like for the pilgrims-on-foot.

Of course, we as Christians are also on a spiritual pilgrimage.

We're on our way to heaven, the New Jerusalem – and as we grow in Christ we're *ascending*. Getting to know God - becoming like Him - sharing Him with others - is always an *upward* move! In Philippians 3:14 Paul says, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Paul refers to the Christian life as “the upward call of God.”

These psalms were written for our journey, as much as for the Jews.

Note, these 15 songs are organized in 5 groups of three. Each triad starts with a psalm that expresses **trouble** – Psalms 120, 123, 126, 129, and 132. The next psalm in each grouping conveys **trust** in the Lord. And the final psalm records the Lord's **triumph** over the difficulty.

Five times the psalmist takes us from **trouble** to **trust** to **triumph**.

One other thought before we start... The pilgrim's journey to Jerusalem was always an uplifting experience. It was a spiritual ascent. You left behind the daily grind, and climbed into the presence of God.

The same is true for us. Worship is always *an ascending experience*.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY begins, “In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He heard me. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.” This is a strange way to start a happy trip. Why begin a

religious pilgrimage with a concern about perverse lips?

Understand most pilgrims made these journeys with other friends. It was like a traveling family reunion. Remember when Jesus was 12 years old, His parents, Joseph and Mary, returning from the feast, didn't realize Jesus had been left behind. Apparently, they were returning in a group.

I'm sure some folks looked forward to these pilgrimages to catch up on the latest news. The trips were tainted. They became gossip sessions.

It's sad, that the same came happen at a church function. *How often do prayer requests resemble juicy gossip?* When we ascend to worship let's use our lips to praise God, not lie – let's speak the truth, not deceit.

I've heard it said, "Those who gossip should be hung by the tongue; and those who listen to gossip should be hung by the ear." Actually, we should love our enemies, but if you've ever been slandered, you can identify with the sentiment. Loose lips can do horrible damage.

"What shall be given to you, or what shall be done to you, you false tongue? Sharp arrows of the warrior, with coals of the broom tree!"

Coals from a broom tree retained their heat for a very long time.

He says a gossip's tongue is like a flaming arrow. The only difference between an arrow and a gossip is the arrow's wound heals faster.

Gossip is like mud on a wall - you wipe it off, but it leaves a spot.

“Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace.”

Here Psalm 120 becomes prophetic. “Meshech” or Russia – and “Kedar” or the Arabs – are Israel’s two chief enemies today.

And despite their rhetoric the Muslim nations surrounding Israel are not interested in peace. As the psalmist says, they “hate peace.” They will not be satisfied until Israel is wiped off the map and driven into the ocean.

Here’s a map of the Middle East published by the Palestinians.

The psalmist, 3000 years ago, speaks for the modern state of Israel today - verse 7, “I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.”

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE begins, “I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help?” Jerusalem was built on five hills – Zion to the west - Ophel to the south - Scopus to the north, Olivet to the east - and at its center was Moriah, or Temple Mount.

The city rises 2550 feet above the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and 3800 feet above the Dead Sea to the east... From all four directions, folks in times of trouble lifted up their eyes and looked to the King of Jerusalem.

“My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved...” Today we drive up from Jericho to the city of Jerusalem on a modern freeway - but for many years the tour bus actually drove the ancient

pilgrim's path. And it was treacherous terrain.

The road was narrow and hugged the mountains. At places the tires on our bus were within inches of slipping over the edge into the ravine below.

The Jews knew the danger, but they trusted God to keep them safe.

He adds in verse 3, **“He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”** God never sleeps.

At times, we all get a little sleeping. We tend to nod off, or doze off. In fact, for some of you this will happen toward the end of tonight's study.

But God is constantly vigilant. He never takes His eyes off His people.

In 1989, one of the worst environmental disasters in history occurred off Prince William Sound in Alaska. The Exxon Valdez hit a reef and spilled 10.8 million gallons of fuel into the ocean. And what caused the catastrophe? The navigator fell asleep at the helm.

Bad stuff happens when people get tired and doze off.

Once I pulled up behind another car at an intersection and fell asleep for a second – just a second - but long enough to hit the car in front of me. My insurance company ended up buying the guy a new bumper.

Terrible consequences occur when we nod off at the wrong time. Yet God never slumbers. He never naps. God's eyes are always on us.

“The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.”

Most warriors are right-handed and hold their sword with the right hand. This is why a warrior would try to keep His right hand in the shade. This meant his movements were hidden or obscured from his opponent.

This gave him an advantage. Here the Lord is saying He is *our edge!*

“The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.”

The Hebrew word translated **"preserve"** means **"to fence or hedge in."**

The story of Job teaches us the Lord plants a protective hedge around His kids. Satan can't harm us without God's permission. Every believer has a Father-filter. Verse 8, **“The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”**

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO

“I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." How do you react when the alarm goes off on Sundays? Are you excited to worship? Do your feet hit the floor with enthusiasm?

David was **“glad”** when it was time to worship with God's people.

“Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!” Not literally, but in their minds and hearts they've arrived in the gates.

This is similar to our predicament in Christ.

Physically we're on a pilgrimage, but according to Ephesians 2:6 spiritually

we're already seated "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

"Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together..." The Old City of Jerusalem is a *compact city*! Within the walls of Jerusalem, the city is divided into four quarters. Each section surrounds a **sacred shrine**.

The NE section is the Moslem quarter - it butts up to the Temple Mount.

To the SE lies the Jewish Quarter which leads to the Wailing Wall.

The NW is the Christian Quarter and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The SW quadrant is the Armenian Quarter - site of the Last Supper.

The area of the whole city is less than a single square mile. Jerusalem is like a golf ball - small in size, but a lot goes in it and it's tightly wound.

Jerusalem is "where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to the Testimony of Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD."

The Testimony of Israel is another name for the Ark of Covenant.

Inside the Ark, was the jar of manna - the rod that confirmed Aaron as priest - and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Over the Ark was the Shekinnah glory. The Ark testified to Israel's history and to God's glory.

"For thrones are set there for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces."

The word "Jerusalem" means "*city of peace*." Yet no city has failed so miserably

to live up to its name. More wars have been fought over the holy city than any other city on earth. Even today, conflict surrounds this city.

Yet Jerusalem is still God's city.

It's a strategic piece in God's plan for the end of the age. Folks who love the Lord - and Israel - will pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

In verse 8 David continues to wish Jerusalem well, "For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE

"Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until He has mercy on us." Orientals slaves were ruled by a master and a mistress. And they were so well trained they responded to hand gestures.

A finger snap – or a raised hand – was the equivalent of a command.

Here the psalmist says He looks to God as a slave looks to the hands of his masters. He's so eager to obey, God doesn't have to say a word, just communicate the appropriate gesture and he'll jump.

"Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us!

For we are exceedingly filled with contempt. Our soul is exceedingly filled with

the scorn of those who are at ease, with the contempt of the proud.” Obviously, his eyes are not only on the Lord...

He’s disturbed by the proud and arrogant – folks who oppose God. And the satisfied – people who don’t sense their need for God. It upsets him.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR is David’s song.

Ten of the fifteen psalms of Ascents are anonymous. Four were written by David, and one was written by his son, Solomon - Psalm 127.

Psalm 124 begins, "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, "Let Israel now say - "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled against us..." What about you?

In looking back on your life and some of the tight spots you’ve seen, *if it had not been the Lord on your side*, what would’ve happened to you?

He continues, “then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul; then the swollen waters would have gone over our soul.” He speaks metaphorically of an army invading the land.

“Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.” Like a feeble bird that flew away...

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.”

The psalmist's conclusion... *our God is faithful to rescue His people!*

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” The Hebrew word “Zion” means “refuge or castle.” Jerusalem’s elevation made people think it was invincible.

When David laid siege to Jerusalem, its former occupants, the Jebusites, laughed at his attempt. They bragged - *their city was impenetrable*. It could even be defended by the lame and blind.

Here the psalmist points to those who trust in God – they are the truly invincible force. Men and women with faith are the immovable objects.

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever...” What a comfort for believers.

“For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity...” The only way the wicked can rule is if the righteous help them and join in their sin.

“Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them away with the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!” God’s way is straight and narrow... beware of the crooked path.

Remember the nursery rhyme, “There was a crooked man and he walked a

crooked mile, and he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile; he bought a crooked cat and it caught a crooked mouse, and they all lived together in a little crooked house.” View your life from the wrong and warped perspective and all aspects of life become bent and crooked.

The only way for a crooked life to straighten out is to trust in the Lord.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX begins, “When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.”

Psalm 137 recounts the bitterness the Jews experienced in Babylon. One of the exiled Jews penned, “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion.” It was an awful day.

But Psalm 126 reminds us how quickly God can turn the tables. The Jews thought they’d be in exile forever. Babylon seemed invincible.

Yet one night, the Persians dammed up the Euphrates River - and slipped into the city, under the walls, through the dried up riverbed. The city was taken without firing a shot. And one of the first decrees from the pen of the new ruler, Cyrus, allowed the Jews to return to Judah.

The Jews couldn’t believe it was happening. It was all like a dream! The exiles had to pinch themselves just to make sure they were really awake.

“Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for

them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad."

What was a dream to the Jews, also testified to the nations of the power of God! Even the nations took note of God's intervention.

"Bring back our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the South."

The streams in Israel's Negev are seasonal. They fill up in the rainy season, but are dry the rest of the year. The psalmist is praying for the Jews to return to Judah, as the spring rains bring water to the desert.

"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy." God turns tears into joy.

He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN is the one Psalm of Ascent written by David's son, Solomon. It's a wonderful psalm...

It begins, "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it..." Psalm 127 was written by the master-builder, Solomon.

All over Jerusalem – and Israel for that matter – there were fortresses, and walls, and palaces that testified to Solomon's construction genius.

Of course, Solomon's greatest achievement was the Temple. He spent seven years and wealth untold constructing the first Temple in Jerusalem.

Yet throughout its progress Solomon had the gnawing sense that his part in the project was minor. There was a spiritual supervisor on duty.

In reality God was building the house through their efforts – and if God had not been part of the construction, it would've failed. Solomon admits, **“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...”**

Often church leaders forget this principle.

We trust in the latest gimmick, or survey, or method, or technology – rather than trusting the Lord Himself to build His church!

If we do anything of eternal value God has to be involved. Yes, we have a part – but its 1/10 of one percent - compared to the part God plays.

In fact, Solomon goes further, it's not just the Lord Who builds the house, but its God who sustains what's been built. He adds, **“Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”**

What God builds He is faithful to watch over it and insure its safety.

That's why we're told in verse 2, **“It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep...”**

If we're trusting God to do the work why are we so stressed out?

Why are we burning the candle on both ends? Go ahead and sleep in one morning. God can handle His work. Knock off early one night. Play nine holes on your way home. God has everything under His control.

If God is in charge, why aren't we enjoying our life more?

I'm not suggesting we shouldn't work hard, but sometimes we act as if it's all on our shoulders... that God has no role in our endeavor at all.

This is foolish. **“Unless the Lord builds the house you labor in vain...”**

Remember the Jewish priests were required to wear linen garments – breathable fabrics – so they wouldn't perspire. A sweaty priest was a poor representative of God. Everyone should see that God's work is no sweat!

In verse 3 Solomon transitions from building Temples to building families – from raising buildings to raising babies. **“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”**

The word **“heritage”** literally means **“assignment.”** Your child is a special assignment given to you by God – your God-given assignment. Training your child is your mission. You'll be graded on the job you do...

Parents need to treasure their kids. Always see your children as a gift - a blessing – an opportunity – a reward from the Lord. Hey, **“Children should be viewed as valuable additions, not needed deductions.”**

And this is what the so-called Christian countries have forgotten.

Think of how population trends work... Take two couples - each has a child – those two children marry and have a child... at a 1 child per couple growth rate, in just two generations you've gone from a population of four to a population of one. A 1.0 growth rate shrinks the population 75%.

It takes a 2.11 growth rate to replenish a society. Less than 1.9 is the path to

extinction. Today, the 31 countries of the European Union have a combined population replacement rate of 1.38 kids per couple.

Yet the population of Europe grows... due to Muslim immigration.

The population replacement rate in France is 1.9. But among Muslims in France it's 8.1. By 2027 one in five Frenchmen will be Muslim. It's estimated that by the year 2048 France will be an Islamic state.

Today, in the Netherlands and Belgium half of all newborns are born to Muslim families. If the current growth rates and immigration policies continue, Europe will become an Islamic continent in the near future.

Christian culture in Europe has stopped reproducing itself.

And the growth rate is not much better in the United States.

With our Latino population our growth rate is 2.11 – the bare minimum for sustainability. Without that demographic there's a 1.6 growth rate.

We're not reproducing enough children to maintain our way of life.

Of course the question is why? And there are numerous answers...

Feminism has deceived millions of women into thinking of motherhood as a form of slavery. Rather than celebrate motherhood and children we mock and ridicule women who choose to have large families.

Today, our feminist culture teaches women that childbearing is an interruption in their right to financial independence and a career.

Tax laws, government policies, access to abortion – all contribute to the population squeeze that’s occurring today in America and Europe.

Since WW2 abortion has robbed the world of 1.5 billion people.

But perhaps the biggest culprit is our own selfishness, and our abandonment of the Christian worldview. We ignore the Bible.

Rather than adopt a biblical attitude and view kids as God’s blessing - an opportunity to pass on to a new generation a love for God, and life, and people – we see children as interruptions and inconveniences.

This is tragedy of enormous consequences to our very way of life!

If you’re married and of childbearing age, I’m not saying ignore wisdom in planning your family. Think it through. But we all should celebrate and value children and parents – *not just on Mother’s Day, but every day.*

Solomon continues his appraisal of kids. They’re “Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.”

Children are both a *reward*, and a *responsibility*.

Understand the bow and arrow was a break-through in ancient warfare. With a bow you could now kill a man from a distance. Beforehand, it was hand to hand combat. This new technology sent the weapon on ahead.

And this should be the goal of our parenting. Not to keep the kids tucked away

forever in the quiver, but to send them on ahead.

I want my kids to go farther, higher, and straighter than I've traveled.

Often my kids will try to cop out, "Dad, when you were a kid..." Hey, I'm quick to squelch it – I'm upfront – if they don't turn out better than me, I'll be disappointed. My responsibility is to aim them in the Lord's direction, and then send them sailing further and higher than I've ever been.

Of course, archery is an art. It's a skill. Robin Hood makes it look easy.

But there's a lot that goes into shooting a bow and arrow... the tension on the string - the position of the arms and shoulders - the release – the aim - measuring the loft and distance. There're a lot of moving parts.

If the archer is off a fraction in any of his calculations he could miss the target by 30 feet. And the same is true with parenting, especially when your kids are little. When they're young that's the time to get it right.

If your trajectory is off when a child is young by the teenage years you can have a real problem on your hands. It's been said by the time a child is 5 years old, the parents have done 50% of all they will do to affect the child's future. That doesn't mean you can slack off after the child turns five. It just means the early the better when it comes to shaping a kid.

Perhaps you've heard of "the phoneme contraction." The larynx of a baby is soft and pliable. But as the child learns words, and mimics their parents' language it hardens around the sounds it commonly forms.

In fact, once the larynx forms around certain sounds it's hard to train it to make other sounds. This is why a person's accent is hard to alter.

Place a Chinese baby in your home, and he'll end up speaking English, *and not just English, but English with a Southern accent*. In fact, no matter how hard he tries he'll probably never learn to replicate a Chinese accent.

And this is not just true with language, but with other types of behavior.

As one author puts it, **"Children are wet cement."** You've got a short time to form them before their attitudes and actions harden into habits.

Years ago I read a quote by the famed French scientist, Louis Pasteur.

Pasteur's insight has guided me in my own parenting – after four kids I still agree, **"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become."**

Good parents are kind and tender, but they keep an eye on the goal and allow just enough challenge into their child's life to build character.

Solomon wraps up Psalm 127 in verse 5, **"Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate."** Here's the million dollar question – how many is a quiver full? I've never come up with a universal answer.

Every quiver is a different size. Our quiver held four. Your quiver might hold two or twelve. And you might think it holds two, but God knows it can hold three. That

can happen. But the happy man has a quiver full.

Kathy and I have been rewarded four times with four beautiful, wonderful kids. They are our rejoicing and our responsibility.

And when asked to describe them, here's how I put it. The oldest is the **quarterback** - the leader. My daughter is the **cheerleader**. My third born is the **kicker**. You always get a kick out of Nick. And Mack, he's **The End**.

Let's do one more. **PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT** also focuses on the family. For the Jews their annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem were family affairs! It was a family time for the Jews.

Psalms 128 addresses the man or woman who fears the Lord. And God blesses such a person, but not with **fame** and **fortune**, but with real riches.

He blesses him at the heart of his home. God blesses him in the area of life that's most important - his **family** life! He may not be as successful in business, or in the community - but he achieves where it really counts.

Verse 1 "**Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.**" I know men who leave for work in morning - and they labor hard for their money, but there's no happiness in their life.

At home – around the dinner table – there's tension, and animosity, and friction. He's at war with his wife. His kids hate him. He has no happiness at home. Hey, it doesn't matter how much money you make, if you don't eat and sleep in a happy

home... so *what!* Success is very hollow.

The psalmist says of the man who fears the Lord. “Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table.” His wife is called “a fruitful vine.”

A vine does three things - **it clings, it climbs,** and **it clusters.**

Here’s what makes a good wife: She *clings to her husband*. She gives him attention and affection – time and tenderness. She’s submissive.

But she also *climbs spiritually*. She doesn’t just live for your husband. She pursues a deeper life with God. She stands for Jesus on her own.

And lastly, *she bears clusters of fruit* - her life is a blessing to others. She yields spiritual fruit. People see traces of God all over her life.

And because she *clings* to her husband – he loves her in return.

And because she *climbs* spiritually – she has her husband’s respect.

And because she *clusters* – he admires her all the more.

A good wife will **cling... climb... and cluster...**

And notice he also mentions his kids. “Your children like olive plants...”

Note an olive tree is not the prettiest looking tree in the orchard. Its trunk is gnarled, and twisted, and knotty. And it takes years of careful cultivation before an olive tree ever bears any olives. But if you’re patient, and persistent an olive

tree can be extremely productive.

So it is with our kids. We need to be patient. Give them time to grow.

The mood in today's society is to push our kids academically and athletically. Expect them to do more and more, sooner and sooner. A child's character forms early, but talents and skills mature over time.

Olive trees are also known for their durability and longevity. They're rugged. Once they're full grown they need little upkeep or nurturing.

In fact, you can transplant an olive tree in a different environment and it will still be productive. A mature olive tree is practically indestructible.

This should be the goal for your kids... You want your kids to sink their roots deep into God so when mom and dad aren't around they'll still make wise decisions - and want to serve God - and bear fruit pleasing to Him.

Notice verse 4, "**Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.**" I love Psalm 128. It illustrates what I want most out of life. At the heart of my home I want a wife like a vine – and kids like olive trees.

But here's the frustration. How do I cultivate such a wonderful life? Surely God provides a 10 step formula that always works... not so.

Go back to verse 1, God provides us just two guidelines. **Fear the Lord** and **walk in His ways**... *Put God first in all I do - then live a biblical life.*

God addresses the **center** and the **circumference** of our lives.

If I fear and reverence God enough to follow Him - my wife and kids will respect me enough to follow me. If I look to the Word of God to shape the details of my life – my wife and kids will be inclined to trust my leadership.

Every person's circumstances are different, that's why God doesn't give us a 10 step plan. But if we let the fear of God govern the center - and let the Word of God rule the circumference - our lives will line up perfectly.

Psalm 128 closes with a blessing... **“The LORD bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!”**

And this is what I'm waiting on... my children's children. I hear it's great! You love them. You spoil them. Then you give them back to their parents.

Until they come we'll keep practicing on all the little tikes at CC...