

HAPPY EASTER

Meditation on Psalm 124:1-8

'Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth'!

Psalm 124 is another pilgrim song recalling Israel's salvation experience in Exodus. Psalm begins by praising God's merciful love for the people and his closeness in times of trial saying: 'if God had not been for us' [v.1]. God's compassionate love rescued the people from human enemies and hostile natural forces-Pharaoh of Egypt, the Red Sea, Wilderness etc. Psalm professes trust in the God of Exodus, who also brought them from exile back to their land, when they thought they were no people without land, temple and king-the three blessings people believed constituted them as people of God. In Egypt and in exile, people had only their faith to cling on to; Pharaoh and his army were bent on to destroy them. Israel experienced a God who was exceptionally concerned about their plight! Evil would come to its own tragic end and those who persevere in love find themselves under the 'eagle's wings of God'!

God has already set in motion the people's destiny to reach the Promised Land. While the inimical forces [Egypt and Babylon] wanted to swallow-up Israel, God's gracious love continued to reenergize them to complete their mission as light to the nations by their existence as people of God and they were to be agents of the revelation of the Christ to the world. Psalm acclaims God the creator who sustains [help] all that he fashioned with his all-encompassing grace. Psalm reminds humans that we are not self-sufficient, God is the one who accomplishes his purpose in us. Our free 'yes' to God must bear fruits of love in us for the coming of God's kingdom. Our mission is to be servants of love and our destiny to remain in God's love.

In Jesus we see the suffering servant of God, whom we thought was swept away by the tide of suffering but through his resurrection, he manifested new life, the triumph of love! Suffering is a passage for love to attain its victory. Our task as builders of the kingdom of God is to live Christ's attitudes and manifest him to the world that his love and light may transform hearts and unite all to God! Easter tells us that 'God is for us'; he wants to hold us eternally in his love and that Christ is our Promised Land!

Father Jose