



July 1, 2008

Thought For the Day

***He will not let your foot slip —
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.***

Psalm 121:3-4

When Elijah contended with the prophets of Baal to bring an end to the three year drought that had plagued Israel, he gave them and their god first chance to prove their power. The prophets of Baal went to great lengths to get Baal to respond. There was only silence. In order to reinforce his point, Elijah began to heckle them. One of his sharpest barbs said, “Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” The prophets of Baal then shouted even louder but at the end of the day “there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. “ (1 Kings 18) One can almost feel sorry for them.

Contrast that experience with the confident affirmations made in the above verses of Psalm 121.

First, unlike Baal, our God never sleeps. He is continuously alert to us. He is always aware. We are never out of his sight or out of his mind.

Second, two times in these verse, and six times total in the psalm, the writer proclaims that God “watches over” his people. The idea of the word is that God “exercises great care over.” He keeps, He guards, He observes, He give heed, He attends to the life of his people. This is the word that was used when God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They were to “watch over” it. It is the word used to describe one of the duties of city gate keepers. They were to “watch over” the safety of the city. God gives that sort of attention to us. He is continuously attending to our needs.

And third, as a consequence of this our feet will never slip. We can walk in the path God has laid before us with confidence. He is clearing the obstacles. He is watching for the things that might hinder us. He is watching for things that might cause our faith to slip.

What a wonderful assurance that is as we move forward day by day. The awesome creator God who is powerful enough to make all things, has he attention focused on us always and we can move forward unafraid.

With you watching over me, and preparing the path before me, I will walk confidently forward with you today.