



**Psalm 124**

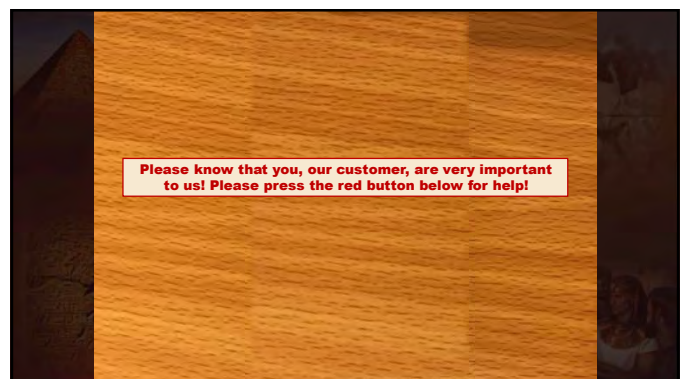
*“If the Lord had not been on our side —  
let Israel say—  
if the Lord had not been on our side when  
people attacked us,  
they would have swallowed us alive when  
their anger flared against us;  
the flood would have engulfed us, the  
torrent would have swept over us,  
the raging waters would have swept us away.*

Read by: Susan Butkowski

**Psalm 124**

*Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be  
torn by their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird from the fowler’s  
snare;  
the snare has been broken, and we have  
escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker  
of heaven and earth.”*

Read by: Susan Butkowski





If the Lord had not been on our side...  
... if the Lord had not been on our side...

**2X'S!**

*The Message*  
"If God hadn't been for us  
—all together now, Israel, sing out!—  
If God hadn't been for us  
when everyone went against us..."

**This is not a "blue-sky..."  
It's a wonderful life!  
declaration!**

**Everyone was against us!  
Floods of rage!**

**WELCOME TO REALITY**

**Psalm 124**  
(The Message)

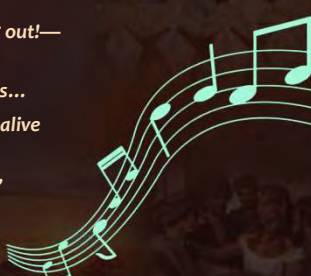
If God hadn't been for us  
—all together now, Israel, sing out!—  
If God hadn't been for us  
when everyone went against us...

**All together now!**




**Psalm 124**  
(The Message)

If God hadn't been for us  
—all together now, Israel, sing out!—  
If God hadn't been for us  
when everyone went against us...  
We would have been swallowed alive  
by their violent anger,  
Swept away by the flood of rage,  
drowned in the torrent;  
We would have lost our lives  
in the wild, raging water



**Psalm 124**  
(The Message)

Oh, blessed be God!  
He didn't go off and leave us.  
He didn't abandon us defenseless,  
helpless as a rabbit in a pack of snarling dogs!  
We've flown free from their fangs,  
free of their traps, free as a bird.  
Their grip is broken;  
we're free as a bird in flight.  
God's strong name is our help,  
the same God who made heaven  
and earth!



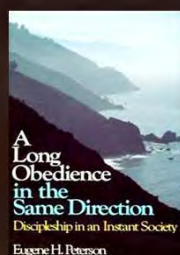
He IS on our side!

“Our help is in the name of  
the Lord, the Maker of  
heaven and earth!”  
v8



What is hazardous in my life is my work as a Christian. Every day I put faith on the line. I have never seen God. In a world where nearly everything can be weighed, explained, quantified, subjected to psychological analysis and scientific control, I persist in making the center of my life a God whom no eye hath seen, nor ear heard, whose will no one can probe. That's a risk.

Every day I put hope on the line. I don't know one thing about the future. I don't know what the next hour will hold. There may be sickness, accident, personal or world catastrophe. Before this day is over I may have to deal with death, pain, loss, rejection. I don't know what the future holds for me, for those I love, for my nation, for this world. Still, despite my ignorance and surrounded by tiny optimists and cowardly pessimists, I say that God will accomplish his will, and I cheerfully persist in living in the hope that nothing will separate me from Christ's love.



Eugene H. Peterson - A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society

Genesis 50

15 When Joseph's brothers had seen that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" 16 So they sent instructions to Joseph, saying, "Your father commanded us before he died, saying, 17 "This is what you shall say to Joseph: "Please forgive, I beg you, the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." And now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive. 21 So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Beaten by his brothers** Genesis 37:12

**Cast into a pit** Genesis 37:24

**Sold into slavery** Genesis 37:28

**Falsely accused and thrown into prison** Genesis 39:1-20

**Forgotten... 3+ years!** Genesis 41:14

**Sold into slavery when he was about 17...** (Genesis 37:2)

**He was 30 when he became elevated by pharaoh...** (Genesis 41:46)

