

G. The Psalms of Ascent (Degrees) Psalms 120-134

1. Title and character of these psalms

- a. The title "psalms of Degrees" is of uncertain origin and meaning. There are at least three views for the meaning of the term:

--Worship songs sung but those who go to service at Jerusalem on the high holy days.

--Commemorative songs remembering the sundial decline in the time of Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:8)

--Songs of the postcaptivity returnees as they came again to Jerusalem.

- b. The Pilgrim character seems clear and the notes and titles in Jensen emphasize this.

- c. But the authorship of some and this historical background of most is vague. Yet somehow they have been put together as a section of the psalter..interesting, happy, short songs.

2. A rapid delineation of the songs of degrees with a notation of the key verses.

a. 120....v. 1

b. 121....v. 2

c. 122....v. 1

d. 123....v. 1

e. 124....v. 8

f. 125....v. 1

g. 126....v. 3

h. 127....v. 1

127-128, the "family" psalms

i. 128....v. 1

j. 129....v. 4

k. 130....v. 1