

Psalm 124
(The Message Translation)

TRUDY DUVAL

124 ¹⁻⁵ 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.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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.
⁸ GOD's strong name is our help,
the same GOD who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 16:13-20

PASTOR JEN

(Common English Bible)

Peter's declaration about Jesus

13 Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One[a] is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

15 He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. 18 I tell you that you are Peter.[b] And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. 19 I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." 20 Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

Response to the Word

L: The Word of God, for us the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.