

Southern Steps
Together in Faith
(Psalms of Ascent 120-134)

This flight of stairs is from the *Second Temple period*...

- Which is during the time when Jesus would have walked on them.
 - AMAZING!!!

NOW...

- Three times a year Jewish worshipers would enter the Temple Mount...
 - From these steps, after coming out of the ritual baths (mikva'ot).

- OR from the lower Pool of Siloam at the end of Hezekiah's Tunnel.

Jewish pilgrimages were required by God to come – (Deuteronomy 16:16)...

“Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed”

OVER THE YEARS...

- A songbook developed & served as the pilgrims' traveling songs.
 - We know them as the “*Psalm of Ascents*” – (Psalms 120-134).

Joel Rosenberg (All Israel News, 04/04/22)...

“Pilgrims sung the Songs of Ascent, Psalms 120–134, as they walked. Each psalm is called [by] the Hebrew word ma'alot, which means ‘going up.’”

Bruce Zachery, (Book on Worship, p.39)...

*“The Mishnah (Jewish oral law), [which were] a collection of rabbinical interpretations of the Jewish religion, indicate that the fifteen songs of ascent were **connected**, with the fifteen steps of the Temple, where the Levites led the pilgrims in singing these songs. The people sang meaningful words to stir their hearts as they anticipated the presence of God.”*

NOW...

- A popular activity for tourists includes...
 - Reading the first verse of each psalm—on THE wide-steps.

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- Then moving up two steps to the next wide step...
 - For each successive reading.
- On the last step we will all read (Ps. 134) together.

HERE'S THE POINT:

Built into the fabric of first-century Jewish culture...

- Were reminders and repetition—
 - They needed to rehearse truth...
 - Because the Roman world around them...
 - Countered God's Word at every step.

SO TOO...

- We take yearly trips to Israel to counter the lies of culture...
 - That suggest Jesus was not real.