

PSALM 112

Prosperity of the One Who Feels the LORD.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (6-12-96). "Characteristics of the Servant of God."
- B. As we noted in the introduction of Psa. 111, these two are companion or twin psalms with that one developing the theme, "The Character of God," and this one, the "Characteristics of the Servant of God." Both are of 20 lines in acrostic form, and difficult to outline because of the acrostic structure.
- C. Leupold gives as a theme for the psalm, "This psalm emphasizes the praise that God deserves because of what He does for those who truly fear Him."

THE TEXT.

- 112:1** Praise the LORD!
How blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
Who greatly delights in His commandments.
- 2** His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3** Wealth and riches are in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.
- 4** Light arises in the darkness for the upright;
He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.
- 5** It is well with the man who is gracious and lends;
He will maintain his cause in judgment.
- 6** For he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be remembered forever.
- 7** He will not fear evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- 8** His heart is upheld, he will not fear,
Until he looks *with satisfaction* on his adversaries.
- 9** He has given freely to the poor,
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted in honor.
- 10** The wicked will see it and be vexed,
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;
The desire of the wicked will perish.

COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1]** "Praise the Lord!" In the Hebrew, "Hallelujah." "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights in His commandments." The word for "fears" is the same one translated "reverend" in Psa. 110:9. It is found 377 times in the OT and translated "fear" 242 times, and "terrible" 24 times. In this verse the psalmist equates one who fears the Lord with one who delights in His commandments. This is the opposite to the attitude of the worldly person.
[v2] "His descendants will be mighty on the earth... will be blessed." These two lines form a synonymous parallelism as each line says basically the same thing as the other.
[v3] "Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever." These lines form a synthetical parallelism as one adds to the thought of the other.
[v4] "Unto the upright there arises light... gracious... compassion... righteous." These blessings are the result of fearing the Lord and delighting in His commandments.
[v5] "A good man deals graciously and lends..." Many times love and compassion will treat others better than selfish business sense would dictate.
[v6] "Surely he will never be shaken..." This does not mean that he will not have difficulties, or at times wonder how he will make it, but when he is dedicated to God and His commandments to the

degree that he will help others even when it is not “good business” he will be respected and blessed by God and man.

- B. **[v7]** “He will not be afraid of evil tidings...” The word “evil” here means apostate, idolatrous. This is wickedness, and not the hardship and trials of misfortune that try our faith. The man who lives in God’s righteousness is not affected by temptations to evil, as the man who is self-centered and worldly.

[v8] “His heart is established; he will not be afraid...” When our trust is in the Lord, we have confidence against strong forces of evil.

[v9] Here we have a synthetical parallelism where one point is added to another to get a more complete picture.

- C. **[v10]** This is almost the exact form for the wicked that verse nine was for the righteous.