

PSALM 128

Blessedness of the Fear of the LORD.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (11-27-96).
- B. A Song of Ascents. "Blessedness of the Family that Fears the Lord."
- C. Verse 1 seems to be the theme of this brief psalm: "Blessed is every one that fears Jehovah, that walks in His ways."
- D. Delitzsch suggests that Psa. 127 and 128 supplement each other with the happiness and prosperity that men seek in Psa. 127 is represented as 'a gift from God,' whereas in Psa. 128 they are seen as a reward from faithfulness to God.

THE TEXT.

- 128:1** How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
Who walks in His ways.
2 When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands,
You will be happy and it will be well with you.
3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
Within your house,
Your children like olive plants
Around your table.
4 Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.
5 The LORD bless you from Zion,
And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
6 Indeed, may you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

COMMENTS.

- A. God Blesses Those Who Walk in His Ways (128:1,2).
[v1] "Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways." The Jews may have thought of themselves as the sole recipient of God's blessings. But God has always been receptive of all who will do His will.
[v2] "When you eat the labor of your hands..." God has always taught men to work for their bread. See Gen. 3:19; 2Th. 3:10.
- B. God Blesses the Family that Fears Him (128:3,4).
[v3,4] "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine... your children like olive plants all around your table." This is similar to the last part of Psa. 127 which speaks of the blessings of a large family. But here, the emphasis is not as much on the size of the family, as their FEARING the Lord. The word 'fear' here is defined in Strong's Hebrew Lexicon: fearing; morally, reverent: KJV-- afraid, fear (-ful). (Hebrew Dictionary)
- C. A Prayer for God's People and Jerusalem (128:5,6).
[v5] "The Lord bless you out of Zion..." The thought seems to be that they received the Lord's blessings from Zion, the center of their worship, and from the House of God or the temple in Jerusalem. This is especially appropriate in a psalm sung by the people as they were ascending to Jerusalem for worship at the annual feast days.
"...and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life." This is a prayer that they see Jerusalem blessed, rather than a prophecy that it would be blessed.
[v6] "Yes, may you see your children's children..." This is a natural desire of godly people whose children fear the Lord and are faithful to Him.