

Background of the Psalms:

We assume the first Psalm written was by Moses (Psalm 90)

<A Prayer of Moses the man of God.> Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. (Ps. 90:1 KJV)

- Note that Moses' Psalm was a prayer.
- The Psalms cover the gambit of human emotion:

Primarily Praises:

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (Ps. 150:1 KJV)

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Ps. 150:6 KJV)

Lament:

Psalm 3 (KJV 1900)

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

¹ Lord, How are they increased that trouble me!

Many *are* they that rise up against me.

² Many *there be* which say of my soul,
There is no help for him in God. Selah.

³ But thou, O Lord, *art* a shield for me;
My glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

⁴ I cried unto the Lord with my voice,
And he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

⁵ I laid me down and slept;
I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people,
That have set *themselves* against me round about.

⁷ Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God:
For thou hast smitten all mine enemies *upon* the cheek bone;

[Note: notice every reference to the enemies of God being smitten on the head- Genesis 3:15; Romans 16:20]

Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

⁸ Salvation *belongeth* unto the Lord:

Thy **blessing** *is* upon thy people. Selah.

Communal Laments:

Psalm 60:1 (KJV 1900)

¹ O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us,
Thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.

Imprecatory Psalms

Happy *shall he be*, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones. (Ps. 137:9 KJV)

Someone will be happy by murdering little innocent babies

The text is a problem text.

Why would God approve of such a heinous act?

He does NOT approve!

The ones that are happy in their murderous act are the Persians exacting vengeance on the Babylonians for their cruelty.

O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; **happy** *shall he be*, that rewardeth thee **as thou hast served us**. (Ps. 137:8 KJV)

A Hidden Psalm

Then on that day David delivered first *this psalm* to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren. (1 Chr. 16:7 KJV)

- This Psalm is recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:8-36

The Psalm was given when the Ark of the Covenant was returned from its capture by the Philistines.

Here is the salient part of the Psalm:

¹⁵ Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word *which* he commanded to **a thousand generations**;

¹⁶ *Even of the covenant* which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;

¹⁷ And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel *for* an **everlasting covenant**,

¹⁸ Saying, **Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan**, the lot of your inheritance;

¹⁹ When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it. (1 Chr. 16:15-19 KJV)

The Land belongs to Israel

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (Ps. 1:1 KJV)

The Bible defines the word “blessed” and tells you the Hebrew word behind it.

And Leah said, **Happy** am I, for the daughters will call me **blessed**: and she called his name **Asher**. (Gen. 30:13 KJV)

- “Being ‘happy’ depends on happenings.”

There is more to the word “bless” and “blessing” than meets the eye.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. (Ps. 104:1 KJV)

In Psalm 104:1, the English word “bless” **means to speak well of, praise, or extol the LORD, acknowledging His greatness and worthiness.**

We need to distinguish between two uses of the word bless in Scripture.

- God blesses man: God bestows favor, benefits, or good things upon man.
- Man blesses God: Man praises, honors, and exalts God for who He is and what He has done.

What we will see in our study is “Blessings” are **spiritual** for Christians in *the Dispensation of Grace*

“Blessings” are **earthly and physical** for Jews in the *Dispensation of the Law*.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with **all spiritual blessings** in heavenly *places* in **Christ**: (Eph. 1:3 KJV)

Notice three things:

- **“Blessed be the God and Father”** — Paul praises God.
- **“Who hath blessed us”** — God has bestowed His favor upon believers.
- **“All spiritual blessings”** — Paul identifies the character of these blessings as spiritual, and locates them “in heavenly places in Christ.”

Blessings for the Christian are primarily “spiritual” and presently possessed, with a future consummation. They are also IN CHRIST. **Only believers** in the Age of Grace are IN CHRIST.

All are **IN ADAM** in the OT. See Genesis 5- “and he died”
For as **in Adam** all die, even so **in Christ** shall all be made alive. (1 Cor. 15:22 KJV)

But ye are not **in the flesh** [*positionally*], but **in the Spirit** [*positionally*], if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, **he is none of his**. (Rom. 8:9 KJV)

God blesses apart from works

⁶ Even as David also describeth the **blessedness** of the man, unto whom God **imputeth righteousness without works**,

⁷ *Saying*, **Blessed** are **they whose iniquities are forgiven**, and whose sins are covered.

⁸ **Blessed** is the man to whom **the Lord will not impute sin**. (Rom. 4:6-8 KJV)

Believers are blessed through Abraham's promised seed

So then they which be of faith are **blessed** with faithful Abraham. (Gal. 3:9 KJV)

We are blessed with redemption

Christ hath redeemed us from **the curse of the law**, being made a **curse** for us: for it is written, **Cursed** is every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴
That **the blessing of Abraham** might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive **the promise of the Spirit through faith**. (Gal. 3:13-14 KJV)

Happy is the believer who enjoys liberty of conscience

Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. (Rom. 14:22 KJV)

Jay Adams gives an example

Happiness and blessedness are related, but not identical in every context

Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? (Gal. 4:15 KJV)

- Paul reminds the Galatians of the joy in the Lord they once had.

Romans 8:35–39 — Blessing amid suffering

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35-39 KJV)

Ordinary happiness is often influenced by circumstances, but biblical blessedness can rest upon one's relationship with God even when circumstances are painful.

Does the Lord forbid wealth?

- If you are a Lordship salvation advocate you would point to the Rich Young Ruler.

Note the following:

Charge them that are **rich** in this world, that they be not **highminded**, nor **trust in uncertain riches**, but in the living God, **who giveth us richly all things to enjoy**; (1 Tim. 6:17 KJV)

The Blessings of the Jews

Their nation began with a Promise of Blessings and Curses

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee **a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** (Gen. 12:1-3 KJV)

Deuteronomy 28 (The Chapter of Great Blessings and Curses)

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt **hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God**, to observe *and* to do all his commandments [*works*] which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth [*earthly realm*]:

² And all these **blessings** shall come on thee, and overtake thee, **IF** thou shalt hearken unto **the voice of the LORD thy God**.

³ Blessed *shalt thou be* in the **city**, and blessed *shalt thou be* in the **field**.

⁴ Blessed *shall be* the **fruit of thy body**, and **the fruit of thy ground**, and the **fruit of thy cattle**, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

⁵ Blessed *shall be* thy **basket and thy store**.

⁶ Blessed *shalt thou be* when thou **comest in**, and blessed *shalt thou be* when thou **goest out**.

⁷ The LORD shall cause thine **enemies** that rise up against thee to be **smitten** before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

⁸ The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy **storehouses**, and in **all that thou settest thine hand unto**; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

⁹ The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, **IF** thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

¹⁰ And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and **they shall be afraid of thee.**

¹¹ And the LORD shall make thee **plenteous in goods**, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

¹² The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven **to give the rain** unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt **lend** unto many nations, and thou shalt **not borrow.**

¹³ And **the LORD shall make thee the head**, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; **IF** that thou **hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God**, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*:

¹⁴ And thou shalt not go aside from any of the **words** which I command thee this day, *to* the right hand, or *to* the left, to go after other gods to serve them. (Deut. 28:1-14 KJV)

