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Psalm 144

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the
Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 144.

Topics.

- Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war.
- O LORD, what is man that you think of him he is like a passing shadow.
- Rescue and deliver me from the hand of foreigners.
- I will sing a new song to you, O God, who gives victory to kings.
- May our sons be like plants full grown our daughters' pillars of a palace.
- May there be no suffering, failure or cry of distress in our streets.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 144:1-2

A Psalm of David.

Blessed be the LORD, My Rock, who Trains My Hands for War.

- **Psalm 144:1-2:** Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; ²he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

David gives God credit for his triumphant victories and skill in war, a principal in David's life was, if there was any credit to be given for anything the praise always went to God. No doubt David studied, trained and practised the art of fighting and obviously became very skilful at warfare, but even though he had trained and learned the skill he credits God for that skill and ability. This should be a principal in the lives of all the faithful who are gifted in some area of their life, their work, or their home or are skilled in a craft, music, hospitality or gifted at encouraging and comforting others etc., we should always remember to be like David and give God thanks and praise for the gift, because not everyone is gifted with that same talent or skill. James in his letters wrote:

- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17).

PSALM 144:3-4

O LORD, what is Man that You Think of Him.

- **Psalm 144:3-4:** O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? ⁴Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

The statement, "Human life is as a breath and a passing shadow," are very appropriate since before eternity human life is as a fleeting passing of time and a blink of the eyes. A shadow is in a sense an illusion since it only exists while the light of the sun shines upon a solid object as soon as the light vanishes and darkness comes the shadow ceases to exist. Likewise, as soon as the darkness of death comes upon human life it vanishes in the same way that the shadow does. For these reasons the book of proverbs states that those who chose to deny God are fools since their mortal life will pass away like a fleeting shadow.

Concerning a fool, the Psalms and the book of Proverbs says:

- The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none (among fools) who does good. (Psalm 14:1) (Psalm 53:1).
- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. (Proverbs. 12:15).
- A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. (Proverbs. 18:2).

These verses show that the fool is one who says in their heart there is no God and rebels against His will are corrupt and full of wicked acts. They have no understanding or knowledge of what is important to God and do not care about the less fortunate or the poor. They deliberately do harm to other humans for their own personal gain and have no interest in seeking after God so God has rejected them because he will not force Himself upon anyone or violate their will. (Psalm 53)

A great principal for a wise person: David says it is a kindness and an excellent thing for him if a righteous person rebukes and corrects him from making wrong choices and going the wrong way. He not only prays that he will not refuse correction, but also prays that he will accept it with kindness. (Psalm 141:5).

What is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? (v3) the author of Hebrews in the following verses picks up on these words of David:

- Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honour, ⁸putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (Hebrews 2:5-8).

The focus of these verses is the world to come the author of Hebrews is astonished and perhaps somewhat dumbfounded that God would consider exalting sinful mortal man above the angels and not only crown him with glory and honour, but also put all things in subjection under his feet. The world to come refers to that period of time when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and

oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 144:5-8

Rescue and Deliver Me from the Hand of Foreigners.

- **Psalm 144:5-8:** Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down! Touch the mountains so that they smoke! ⁶Flash forth the lightning and scatter them; send out your arrows and rout them! ⁷Stretch out your hand from on high; rescue me and deliver me from the many waters, from the hand of foreigners, ⁸whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

This is an allusion to the following spectacular moment in Israel's history:

- On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. (Exodus 19:16-18).

Deliver me from the many waters: (v7) the many waters refer to the foreigners who speak lies, deception and falsehood against him. David has an extremely powerful view of God not only does he pray that God would rescue him from his enemies, but also prays that God would move creation to do it.

I will Sing a New Song to You, O God, Who Gives Victory to Kings.

- **Psalm 144:9-11:** I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you, ¹⁰who gives victory to kings, who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword. ¹¹Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

The expression, "David will sing a new song," (v9) immediately refers to his faith that God will give him victory over his enemies and instead of singing a song of woe, he will sing a song of triumph and joy. But it also echoes the day of resurrection when he will be raised from his sleep in Christ and see the promised Messiah and Son of God face to face in the new Kingdom to come who he always held before him by faith and love.

PSALM 144:12

May our Sons be like Plants Full Grown our Daughters Pillars.

- **Psalm 144:12:** May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace.

May our sons be like plants full grown: like strong well rooted plants that vigorously grow too mighty, strong and healthy trees that bring forth an abundance of useful wood for building and healthy fruit for eating.

May our daughters be like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace: most likely refer to the corner columns of a palace or temple which enhance the beauty of the building? The comparison is very beautiful since pillars of ancient times were very smoothly polished and skilful sculptures often engraved the most beautiful carving into them so the symbolism is of being adorned with grace, modesty and good works and the beauty of femineity. Added to this corner pillars support and hold the entire structure together which carries the idea of maturely grown daughters uniting and holding the household together. When sons and daughters grow up this way the home becomes a palace and Mum and Dad become kings and queens.

PSALM 144:13-15

May there be No Suffering, or Cry of Distress in Our Streets.

- **Psalm 144:13-15:** may our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce; may our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields; ¹⁴may our cattle be heavy with young, suffering no mishap or failure in bearing; may there be no cry of distress in our streets! ¹⁵Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

The picture here is of a very peaceful, prosperous and happy society that is secure and safe for all, in contrast to living in a kingdom filled with strife, hardships grief's, troubles and war. Temporal blessings are not to be taken for granted, to live in a home or a society that does not have to struggle with poverty and war is a great blessing. Under the Old Testament covenant God promised Israel earthly prosperity and that their nation would be enriched and flourish in every way if they remained obedient to the covenant and faithful to God. Sadly, the Scriptures and history very clearly show that rather than remain faithful they entered into gross wickedness and turned to pagan gods and idols. The ultimate and perfect fulfilment of these blessings in David's prayer will be when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev.

19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
