

THE BLESSINGS OF THE JOURNEY! PSALM 128

Who goes on the journey? Why do they go?

Psalm 128:1

Blessed is every one
that **feareth** the LORD;
That **walketh** in his ways.

Psalm 128:4

Behold, that thus shall the man **be blessed**
that **feareth** the LORD.

Psalm 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: And all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Psalm 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, So the LORD pitieth **them that fear him**.

Psalm 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon **them that fear him**, And his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalm 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man **that feareth the LORD**, That delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Psalm 115:13 He will bless **them that fear the LORD**, Both small and great.

Psalm 147:11 The LORD taketh pleasure in **them that fear him**, In those that hope in his mercy.

We used to call this individual: A God-fearing man/woman

Draw near → to your Savior!

Shrink back → before Almighty God!

Blessings / Benefits:

1. Happy in life!

Psalm 128:1 Blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) is every one that feareth the LORD; That walketh in his ways.

Psalm 128:2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: **Happy** (אַשְׁרֵי) shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Psalm 128:3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine By the sides of thine house: Thy children like olive plants Round about thy table.

The Psalmist uses 2 words to describe believers in this Psalm. Here he uses asher (אֲשֵׁר)

Blessed → What God does for us - objectively

Happy → Our subjective experience of those blessings!

128:1-3 deals with our experiences of following the Lord:

- **Happiness in our labor / work** 128:2a
- **Happiness in our personal life** 128:2b

Happy & g

- **Happiness in our marriage** 128:3a
- **Happiness in our faith** 128:3b

Why go on this journey? It's good & it's happiness!

Isn't this too much? Maybe a little over the top?

God blesses our journey of fear & obedience → and we live, in general, a happy life!

2. Blessed by God!

Psalm 128:4 Behold, that thus **shall** the man **be blessed** (יְבָרֵךְ) that feareth the LORD.

Psalm 128:5 The LORD **shall bless** (יְבָרֵךְ) thee out of Zion: And thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem All the days of thy life.

Psalm 128:6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, And peace upon Israel.

Barak (בָּרַךְ) bless, to be blessed

Now the Psalmist moves from the experiences of the blessed life (happiness) to the source of the blessings!

[KJV makes these verses a promise

ESV+ makes these verses a prayer / wish

Same verbs and both choices are correct theologically & grammatically. Called a jussive.]

Thoughts:

- No doubt about it – behold!
- The Lord Himself shall bless you
- Out of Zion → where God dwells
- Seeing good → the good of Jerusalem

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount **Sion**, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **Hebrews 12:23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **Hebrews 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **Revelation 21:2** And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. **Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

[There is always an interplay between Jerusalem, the Heavenly Jerusalem, & the coming New Jerusalem.]

- All the days of thy life → lifelong blessings!
- Children's children...

One author called this: the “spreading blessings!”

3. Peace (be) upon Israel!

Psalm 128:6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, *And* **peace upon Israel**.