

BLESSINGS ALL ROUND FOR THE JOURNEY! PS 134

Psalm 134 is the last of the Pilgrim | Ascent | Degree | Journey Psalms & it is all about God and His blessings!

Now that we are here:

1. Bless the Lord!

Psalm 134:1 Behold, **ble**ss** ye the LORD**, all ye servants of the LORD, Which by night stand in the house of the LORD.

This is not a climax of activity, of doing, of striving, and organizing...

This is about:

- Bowed heads
- Grateful hearts
- Still minds
- Restful pulses

Bless in this context: thinking about God, reflecting on who He is, and giving thanks for what He has done.

2. Bless the Lord together!

Psalm 134:1 Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, Which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Psalm 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.

This text may be understood in two ways (both true & neither wrong):

- Priests as the servants who lead and we join in
- We are the priests| servants who are worshipping the Lord

Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: Exodus 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

“I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. . . . The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.” — C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms

3. Bless the Lord with words!

Psalm 134:1 Behold, **ble**ss** ye the LORD**, all ye servants of the LORD, Which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Psalm 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, **And ble**ss** the LORD**.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Thoughts:

- Use your words

- Use **other** peoples' words! (CHS, C. S. Lewis)
- Borrow words from the great hymns
- When you can't use / find the words and words seem to fail you ... mumble and groan

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **Romans 8:27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

An infamous philosopher wrote to his love: "I did not know I loved you until I heard myself telling you so – for one instant I thought 'Good God, what have I said?' and then I knew it was the truth!"

4. Bless the Lord with **all that you are!**

Psalm 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.

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

Psalm 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, **When I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.**

Psalm 63:4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: **I will lift up my hands in thy name.**

Psalm 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; **And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that **men (τοὺς ἄνδρας)** pray every where, **lifting up holy hands**, without wrath and doubting.

Lifting up hands:

- This is **not** a performance
- This is **not** an experience
- This is **not** for anyone else
- Scripture is talking about expressing ourselves gratefully, wholly...

5. Bless the Lord day **&** night!

Psalm 134:1 Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, Which by night stand in the house of the LORD.

This is not checking a box! This is not keeping a schedule!

You've made the trip – now soak it up!

6. Be blessed **by** the LORD – maker of heaven and earth!

Psalm 134:3 The LORD that made heaven and earth **Bless thee out of Zion.**

Isaiah 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, That the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow unto it. **Isaiah 2:3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; And he will teach us of his ways, And we will walk in his paths: For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **Isaiah 2:4** And he shall judge among the nations, And shall rebuke many people: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruninghooks: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, That the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, And it shall be exalted above the hills; And people shall flow unto it. **Micah 4:2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, And to the house of the God of Jacob; And he will teach us of his ways, And we will walk in his paths: For the law shall go forth of Zion, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **Micah 4:3** And he shall judge among many people, And rebuke strong nations afar off; And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruninghooks: Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war any more. **Micah 4:4** But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; And none shall make them afraid: For the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.