## **PSALM 128 vs 1**

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This is the 9th of 15 psalms... sometimes called: A Song of Ascents... thought by some to be sung in praise to the LORD of glory... used in the allnight ceremony to begin **Passover**, **Pentecost** and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Charles Spurgeon wrote: There is an evident ascent from the last Psalm: that hints at the way in which a house may be built up, but this draws a picture of that house built, and adorned with domestic bliss through the Lord's own blessing. There is clearly an advance in age, for here we go beyond children to children's children; and also a progress in happiness, for children which in the last Psalm were arrows are here olive plants, and instead of speaking "with the enemies in the gate"... we close with "peace upon those ruled by God"



It is a family hymn - a song for a marriage, or a birth, or for any day in which a happy household has met to praise the Lord. Like all the songs of ascent, it has an eye to Zion and Jerusalem, which are both expressly mentioned, and it closes with an allusion to Israel – those ruled by God.

## A Song of Ascents,

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD who walks in **His ways** / that's the point of Israel; if the Lord is our greatest fear, then what can anyone do to us?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom – Proverbs 1. Anyone who does not fear the Lord - which in our genius 21st century, is a growing number in the west; it is evident, they are deficient in the area of both wisdom and

knowledge; they are boisterous, blundering, blubbering and bumbling, but they are not blessed; His ways are love and joy and peace for one another; full of mercy and of grace; Moses came to know His ways, but the children of Israel wanted to see His mighty works; Moses could say, "that's the way He is".

If we fear God, we may dismiss all other fear. Walking in God's ways, we are under His protection, provision, and approval; danger will be far from us: all things will work our good – Charles Spurgeon.

God blesses those who walk in His ways; He Himself walks with them. This is why we read, David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him - Thomas Le Blanc, 1599-1669.

<sup>2</sup> For you will eat the labor of your hands, happy you will be and it will be well with you / Think about it: Men have dreamed fascinating dreams of removing the disabilities and limitations of the world and the evils of life, without sorrow. Poets have pictured earthly paradises, where life would be one long festival, but vain are all such dreams. They are of human, not of Divine origin, and spring from a root of self-interest and not of wholeness. They cannot be realized in a fallen world, full of sorrow due to sin. Labor is not the symbol of man's punishment, but the secret of man's happiness – James Montgomery, 1771-1854:

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<sup>3</sup>Your wife will be as fruitful as the trellised vines by your house:

your children like olive plants round about your table.

- <sup>4</sup>Indeed, for thus will be the man who kneels and fears the LORD.
- <sup>5</sup> You in Zion, kneel to the LORD; and you will see the good of Jerusalem all the days of

**your life** / what is added is to be regarded as joining the godly duty not only of seeking their own individual welfare, or of being devoted to their own peculiar interests; but rather of having it as their chief desire to see the people of God in a flourishing condition. It would be a very unreasonable thing for each member to desire what may be profitable for itself, while in the meantime the body was neglected – John Calvin,1509-1564.





<sup>6</sup>Yes, you will see your children's children, and

**peace upon Israel.** / war sweeps millions into an early grave. Men live longer in Christian instead of non-Christian countries. Why? They live longer in Protestant instead of Roman Catholic countries. Why? The direct effect of true religion is to increase the period of human life – N. Mc Michel, 1800s.

This, as the former, is a psalm for the families; in that we were taught that the prosperity of our families depends upon the blessing of God. In this we are taught that the only way to obtain that blessing which will make our families comfortable is to live in the fear of God and in obedience to Him. Those who do so, will be blessed – Matthew Henry,1662-1714.

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