

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS
TO JERUSALEM

Part 10

"Psalm 128 & the Wedding at Cana of Galilee"

16 March 2025

Introduction: Flourishing, Fruitfulness, & Worship

At the heart of the Psalms of Ascent are 3 psalms that focus God's people on the things that reflect the creational realities of living in the world as His image-bearers (Gen. 1:27-28a).

Psa. 126—Fertility (agrarian); fruitful labor

Psa. 127—Solomon. Building temple and nation

Psa. 128—Fertility (human, agrarian imagery); fruitful labor

Key Point: The God-ordained institutions of _____ and the _____ are central to how God intends to bless mankind in both the world and the church.

Psalm 128

The worshipers confess together that marriage and children are the foundation of the nation and some of the tangible expressions of how God has blessed and will continue to bless them as they anticipate the enjoyment of His presence for eternity.

- **They declare that those who fear the Lord are blessed and then describe the nature of that blessing. (v. 1-4)**

Psa. 128:1-4—¹ Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! ² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

⇒ It is those who _____ the Lord that are the recipients of His blessings.

"blessed"

"everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways"

"...this fear focuses on...the one true God who has revealed himself as 'Yahweh.' ...[it] must include an acknowledgement that he is the Judge...both in this life and the world to come...[but] this fear should never be set over against continuing trust in...his goodness, and his grace."—O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of Wisdom*

⇒ The Lord blesses the _____ of those who worship and serve Him.

"you shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands"

⇒ The Lord blesses the _____ of those who worship and serve Him.

"your wife will be a fruitful vine"

Vine-Dressing in the ANE:

"your children...like olive shoots"

Cultivating Olive Trees in the ANE:

"Few of us have many great things to care about, but we all have plenty of small ones...It is precisely through these things we put on the table, and the liturgies we form around it that the city is built, *caring* is more than half the work."

—Robert F. Capon, *Bed & Board*

- **They pray that God's people might know His blessings throughout their length of days. (v. 5-6).**

Psa. 128:5-6—⁵ The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! ⁶ May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

⇒ Their prayer is for a long _____ in which to enjoy God's goodness.

"May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem...your children's children"

⇒ The final blessing sums up their enduring _____ for the coming of the promised Messianic kingdom.

Key Point: Marriage and family are blessings of God to all believers because they are a chosen means of His by which to _____ us about Himself.

Gospel Parallel: “The Wedding at Cana” — John 2:1-12

Background: Having been identified as the Lamb of God and baptized by John, Jesus called His first disciples. They were then invited along with His mother to attend a wedding in Cana of Galilee prior to the official beginning of His public ministry.

1. A situation arose at the wedding feast that could have been socially awkward and embarrassing for all involved.
2. The interaction between Mary and the Lord illustrated both the history of their relationship as well as how it had now undergone a significant change.

“What does this have to do with me?”

“Do whatever he tells you.”

3. The miracle displayed the _____ and _____ of the Lord Jesus over the created order.

4. The miracle demonstrated that the work Christ had come to accomplish was _____ to all that had come before.

“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory”

5. The response of the disciples is the proper response to God’s people to His blessings.

“and his disciples believed in him”

Key Point: It is in Christ that the institution of marriage becomes not just a blessing of God’s _____ grace but of His _____ grace as well.

Eph. 5:31-21—³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Concluding Thoughts

- How we conduct ourselves in our work, marriages, and families remains _____ for how God intends to display His work in and through us in the world.

See Eph. 5:22–6:9; Col. 3:18–4:1; 1 Pet. 2:13–3:7; Titus 2:1-10; 1 Tim. 2:8–15; 6:1-2

- The _____ should begin with the relationships closest to us.

Matt. 28:18-20—¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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