

Psa. 128:0 A Song of degrees.

Three times each year the men of Israel were to come to the temple and present themselves before the Lord.

Deut. 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

The fifteen Psalms that are called the songs of *degrees* (elevation, journey to a higher place, go up) were to be sung as they ascended the temple mount.

JFB noted the connection between Zechariah 8 and this psalm as it talked about the blessings of Israel under the reign of Messiah.

Psa. 128:1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.

The truth of this verse is repeated several times in the psalms. If only men would embrace this truth. Man can only be truly happy when he is walking in accordance with the will of God. Fear or reverence of the LORD is made evident by one's desire to live in obedience to His will. Only those that truly reverence the LORD can hope to be disciplined to reject the temptations of this world and walk within the safe parameters of His will.

Psa. 128:2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Psa. 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.

Psa. 128:4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

I am reminded that the psalmist of Israel lived in a time when God's blessing upon His people was manifest in bountiful harvests and large families. They were most blessed when they had plenty to eat and available hands to bring in the harvest and provide for the needs of the family in caring for livestock, making clothes, etc.

Guzik quoting Boice: "The interesting thing about these two images, vines and olive plants, is that they are biblical symbols of the abundant life. They are not food staples like wheat or corn. They symbolize rich blessing."

Spurgeon: "Family blessedness comes from the Lord, and is a part of his plan for the preservation of a godly race, and for the maintenance of his worship in the land. To the Lord alone we must look for it. The possession of riches will not ensure it; the choice of

a healthy and beautiful bride will not ensure it; the birth of numerous comely children will not ensure it: there must be the blessing of God, the influence of piety, the result of holy living.”

Psa. 128:5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Psa. 128:6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children’s children, *and* peace upon Israel.

The psalmist closes by pronouncing a blessing upon the people of Israel as represented by their capital of Jerusalem on Mt. Zion. He prays that they will experience God’s blessing throughout their lives and enjoy their children and grandchildren in peace—exactly what we see in Zechariah 8.