

Psalms 144:0 ¶ *A Psalm of David.*

Another psalm of David expressing his great faith in the LORD.

Guzik quoting George Horne: "It appears from verse 2 and verse 10 of this Psalm, that it was composed after David's accession to the throne. And it is evident, from verse 5, &c. that he had more enemies still to conquer, such as the Philistines, &c."

Psalms 144:1 ¶ *Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:*

Psalms 144:2 *My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.*

David opens this psalm by praising the LORD, crediting Him as the source of his strength and prowess in battle. He continues by identifying several ways that the LORD inspires his faith.

- Through his goodness - A reference to the LORD as One who shows him great favor, lovingkindness, and mercy.
- As his fortress and high tower - A reference to the LORD as his defense, his strong place of refuge.
- As his deliverer - A reference to the LORD as the one who makes a way of escape to keep him safe.
- As his shield - A reference to the LORD as his protector and defender.

This mirrors his thoughts from Psalm 18.

Psalm 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Because of who He is and all that He is to David personally, the psalmist trusts the LORD implicitly. He knows that it is the hand of the LORD that has not only made him king, but also caused the people to yield to him as their king.

And again we confront the amazing sovereignty of God to accomplish His will intertwined with the ability He has given men to make their own choices. Only an omniscient God who has known everything about every person He would ever create before ever creating the first one could do this.

Spurgeon: “Not only does Jehovah give strength to his saints, but he is their strength. The strength is made theirs because God is theirs. God is full of power, and he becomes the power of those who trust him.”

Psalms 144:3 LORD, what *is* man, that thou takest knowledge of him! *or* the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Psalms 144:4 Man is like to vanity: his days *are* as a shadow that passeth away.

This verse is basically a quote from Psalm 8—*Psalm 8:4 “What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”*

As David thinks about the LORD, he can’t help but wonder why He is even interested in man. What can He possibly value in man? David sees man as basically a worthless creature whose life is like a passing shadow in comparison to God.

I can’t help but wonder the same thing sometimes. It always the truth of God’s great love that comes back to encourage and strengthen me. Though I may never truly understand why—God loves me!

Psalms 144:5 Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Psalms 144:6 Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them.

David prays that the LORD will come down from heaven in all His power and destroy His enemies. I am sure his thoughts were inspired by the scripture where Moses recorded when the LORD came down to meet with the leaders of Israel on Mt. Sinai after delivering the people from Egypt.

Exodus 19:16–18 “And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”

Psalms 144:7 Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;

Psalms 144:8 Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

David pleads with the LORD to supernaturally deliver him as He had delivered His people in the past. He compares his situation to one who is about to drown in deep waters. He is facing a foreign enemy who cannot be trusted to make a peace treaty because they are liars.

Psalms 144:9 ¶ I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery *and* an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.

Psalms 144:10 *It is he* that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

With confident expectation that God will answer his prayer, David declares that he will compose a new song to sing God's praises to the accompaniment of his lyre, a ten-stringed instrument. This was a natural response from a man who loved music and was such a gifted musician.

David knows that it is God that gives the king his victories and delivers him from the enemy's sword.

Psalms 144:11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood:

David repeats his plea, showing the earnestness of his plea for the LORD to deliver him from the foreign enemy that cannot be trusted.

Psalms 144:12 That our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth; *that* our daughters *may be* as corner stones, polished *after* the similitude of a palace:

Psalms 144:13 *That* our garners *may be* full, affording all manner of store: *that* our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets:

Psalms 144:14 *That* our oxen *may be* strong to labour; *that there be* no breaking in, nor going out; *that there be* no complaining in our streets.

These verses list some of the blessings that will result from God's deliverance in answer to David's prayer.

- Their sons will be able to grow up in safety.
- Their daughters will be able to grow up in safety and beauty.
- Their barns will be full of grain.
- Their sheep will be able to produce abundantly.
- Their oxen will be able to grow strong to do the work that is needed.
- They will be safe from their enemies behind strong walls.

- There will be no reason for the people to cry out in anguish or fear.

Psalms 144:15 Happy is *that* people, that is in such a case: *yea, happy is that* people, whose God is the LORD.

David's conclusion—Happy is the people whose God is the LORD, the self-existent eternal God, the great I AM.