

Psalm 144:12-15 Preached Backwards

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- I. Psalm 144:12-14 describes a blessed life.
 1. Psalm 144:15 gives the reason for the blessed life.
 2. Therefore, I will preach through these verses backwards.
- II. **Psa 144:15** - *Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.*
 1. The people whose God is the LORD are fortunate, favored, prosperous, satisfied, and have a feeling of great pleasure and contentment.
 - A. Happy *adj.* – 1. Coming or happening by chance; fortuitous; chance. 2. a. Having good ‘hap’ or fortune; lucky, fortunate; favoured by lot, position, or other external circumstance. b. Blessed, beatified. 3. Characterized by or involving good fortune; fortunate, lucky; prosperous; favourable, propitious. (Now used only in certain collations, in which there is association with senses 4 or 5.) 4. Having a feeling of great pleasure or content of mind, arising from satisfaction with one's circumstances or condition; also in weakened sense: Glad, pleased.
 - B. A nation whose God is the LORD is blessed (**Psa 33:12**).
 - C. Nations that forget God will be turned into hell (**Psa 9:17**).
 - D. Blessed *adj.* - 1. Consecrated, hallowed, holy; consecrated by a religious rite or ceremony. 2. That is the object of adoring reverence, adorable, worthy to be blessed by men. 3. a. Enjoying supreme felicity; happy, fortunate. 4. a. Bringing, or accompanied by, blessing or happiness; pleasurable, joyful, blissful.
 2. They are blessed because their God is the LORD Jehovah.
 - A. “Jehovah” is translated “LORD” in the KJV in nearly every case with the exception of a few places (**Exo 6:3**).
 - i. Jehovah is the most high over all the earth (**Psa 83:18**).
 - ii. Jehovah is our salvation (**Isa 12:2; Deut 33:29**).
 - iii. Jehovah is everlasting strength and can be trusted (**Isa 26:4**).
 - B. Jehovah is the one true eternal God (**Deut 6:4; Exo 3:13-15**).
 - C. The gods of the nations are idols, but Jehovah (the LORD) is the Creator of all (**Psa 96:5**).
 3. A people who can from the heart say “the LORD our God” are blessed in the following ways:
 - A. The LORD gave them His word which makes a people a great nation (**Deut 4:5-8**).
 - B. The LORD can be trusted to protect their nation (**Psa 20:7**).
 - C. The LORD will destroy their enemies (**Psa 94:23**).
 - D. The LORD will forgive them and yet punish them to correct them (**Psa 99:8**).
 - E. The LORD their God is exalted and unlike any other (**Psa 113:4-6**).

- F. The LORD their God will have mercy on them (**Psa 123:1-3; Dan 9:9**).
- G. The LORD is their salvation (**Jer 3:23**).
- H. The LORD is righteous in all His works (**Dan 9:14**).
- I. Salvation, glory, honor, and power belong to the LORD their God (**Rev 19:1**).
- 4. The people whose God is the LORD are *blessed* because they are chosen by God (**Eph 1:3-4; Psa 65:4**).

III. **Psa 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.*

1. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be productive: *That our oxen may be strong to labour.*
 - A. In an agrarian society at a time when animals were their machinery, stout oxen that were strong to labor were the means of productivity.
 - i. Much increase is by the strength of the ox (**Pro 14:4; Deut 25:4; 1Ki 19:19**).
 - ii. When God's people hearken diligently to Him and keep His commandments, He will bless their efforts in the field (**Deut 28:1-3**).
 - B. To put this in today's context, if our God is the LORD, He will bless us to be able to work productively and accomplish much.
2. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be safe and secure: *that there be no breaking in.*
 - A. One of the fundamental requirements for happiness and flourishing is to be safe in one's own house and community.
 - B. Where there is burglary and theft, or even the threat of it, there is little peace.
 - C. God's people can (and should) arm themselves to defend and protect their property (**Mat 24:43; Luk 11:21**).
 - D. But a people whose God is the LORD will not even have to worry about doing so because God will protect them from being targeted by thieves and criminals.
 - E. God did so for Israel when they left their homes thrice per year to go to Jerusalem to worship (**Exo 34:23-24**).
 - F. He can do it for us today also.
3. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be stable: *nor going out.*
 - A. God's obedient people will dwell in peaceable habitations, sure dwellings, and quiet resting places (**Isa 32:17-18**).
 - B. When they do go out, they will be kept safe (**Psa 121:8**).
 - C. They will not have to flee their homes or communities because of crime, violence, or social unrest.
4. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be content: *that there be no complaining in our streets.*
 - A. The wicked are murmurers and complainers (**Jud 1:16**).
 - B. God's faithful people will not be murmuring and complaining (**Php 2:14**).
 - C. God will provide them with what they need (**Php 4:19**), and they will be content with such things as they have (**Heb 13:5; Php 4:11; 1Ti 6:6**).

IV. **Psa 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:*

1. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be wealthy and well provided for: *That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store.*
 - A. God's faithful people will be blessed with wealth (**Deut 28:8; Pro 10:22**).
 - B. God will give them power to get wealth (**Deut 8:18**) and strength and wisdom to retain it (**Pro 11:16**).
 - C. He will give them good sense to be savers and not fools with money (**Pro 21:17, 20**).
 - D. There will be riches in their houses (**Pro 15:6; Psa 112:3**), but not in their hearts (**Psa 62:10**).
2. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to be fruitful and industrious: *that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets.*
 - A. God's faithful people will be blessed with fruitfulness (**Deut 28:4**).
 - B. Their investments will prosper and their wealth will increase (**Deut 28:11-12**).

V. **Psa 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:*

1. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to have strong, healthy, mature sons: *That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth.*
 - A. A people whose God is the LORD will be blessed and have many children (**Psa 127:3-5**).
 - B. They will train up their sons in the ways of the LORD by teaching them the scriptures (**Eph 6:4**).
 - C. Their sons will grow up to be godly men who will do the same for their sons (**Psa 78:4-8**).
2. When a people's God is the LORD, He blesses them to have chaste, honorable, and beautiful daughters: *that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.*
 - A. A godly people will train up their daughters to be godly women.
 - B. Their mothers and aged women in the church will teach them "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (**Tit 2:4-5**).
 - C. They will be like beautiful polished cornerstones, not uncivilized jagged rocks.

VI. Why are we as a people today unproductive, unsafe, unstable, discontent, covetous, broke, in debt, and have steeply falling fertility rates and lazy, zombified, uneducated, and ill-mannered children?

1. It's because our God is not the LORD, but our own bellies (**Php 3:19**).
2. If this terrible trend is ever going to reverse, it will only be by national repentance (**2Ch 7:14; Jer 18:7-8**).
3. But repentance must first begin in the church (**2Ch 7:15; 1Pe 4:17**).