

Blessed is Everyone

Chapter 8

Audio Lesson: Old Testament # 53



Objective: To understand why some people are blessed and others are not.

(Leader: Read all of Psalm 128)



Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. I know that the LORD is great, that our LORD is greater than all gods.

—Psalm 128:1-2, 5

Many people believe that God should bless everyone regardless of the choices they have made and the convictions they have held. But the Bible is very clear that many of the blessings that come from God are conditional. The blessed man is blessed because of his faith and his choices.

The psalms promise blessings to those who love and fear the Lord and walk in His ways. In the book of Job, however, Job's friends told him the same thing and that he must have sinned in order to suffer so much. God told these friends that they were wrong. Does that mean that the psalms contradict the book of Job? No, the blessed man psalms are general principles, not absolute rules. We learn from them that people generally reap what they sow, and when people like Job suffer, they are exceptions to the rule. And it is important to remember that Job eventually was blessed. From an eternal perspective, obedience to God always brings blessing.



1. True or **false**? The “blessed” psalms and the book of Job contradict each other.

2. True or **false**? Blessed people are never tested by God.
3. **True** or false? The blessings of God can impact families, cities, and countries.
4. **True** or false? Without God, you cannot be a truly good parent.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. According to Psalm 128, who is blessed?
 - a. Everyone
 - b. Everyone who is perfect
 - c. Everyone who fears the Lord and believes in Him**
 - d. Everyone who memorizes this psalm
6. How do God's blessings fit with plans for the future?
 - a. His blessings help fulfill our plans.
 - b. His blessings help us fulfill His plans.**
 - c. His blessings do not impact the future. They are simply for our pleasure.
 - d. He only gives His blessings after we have accomplished His plans.
7. Who does God work through first in order to bless a nation?
 - a. The government
 - b. Economic investors
 - c. The church
 - d. Families**

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city the watchmen stand guard in vain.
In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves.
Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.
Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.
Blessed is that man whose quiver is full of them.
They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gates.*

—Psalm 127

8. Which of the following can *never* result in futility?
 - a. The labor of human beings
 - b. Building a church or temple
 - c. Being concerned about the right things
 - d. The work that the Lord does**
9. What is Satan's best strategy for hindering God's people?
 - a. Destroying families**
 - b. Corrupting spiritual leaders
 - c. Attacking governments
 - d. Making people sick

10. What does the Bible say about children?
- a. They are a hindrance to ministry.
 - b. They are not important.
 - c. They are a great blessing from God to parents.**
 - d. They are good laborers.

11. How can human beings accomplish works that are truly good and lasting?
- a. By cooperating with each other
 - b. By following the Lord's plans and depending on His strength**
 - c. By developing a good strategy
 - d. By working at least sixteen hours each day



In your family and your work, whose strength do you depend on? How important is it for God to be the builder of your life?



Ask God how He wants your blessings to fit with His plans. Thank Him for including you in His purposes. Ask God to protect and bless your family so that you can be a living testimony to all of His blessings.



Going Deeper

1. How does Psalm 128 describe the way the blessed man fits into God's strategy for impacting spiritual communities, cities, nations and the world? _____

2. Do the first verses of Psalm 128 teach that everyone is blessed or are the blessings based on conditions? If on conditions, what are they? _____

3. What do Psalms 127 and 128 have in common? _____

4. Since the metaphor of the bow and arrows represents the relationship between parents (the bow) and their children (the arrows), what is the strategy of Satan today? _____

5. Since we're told in Psalm 127 that having children is a good thing and the blessed man has a quiver full of them, does this mean that those who do not have children are not blessed people? Explain your answer. _____

6. After Solomon gives his swan song of regret about being concerned, working hard and building the wrong things, why does he then give those two strong verses about the blessings of having children? _____

7. According to Psalm 128, who besides the Lord is the fountainhead of this blessed family unit? _____
