

Summer In The Psalms II - #4 – Blessed Is The Nation

Psalm 33:10-22

Throughout the Psalms God reminds us of His heart, His purpose for our lives: He desires to bless!

13 Times in Psalms – “*Blessed is the man...*”

1 time: 89:15 – “*Blessed is the people...*”

Today, we find, ‘*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*’

On this July 4 weekend, marking the 250th birthday of our nation, with our minds on history, blessing and celebration, what text could be more appropriate?

- Have we **enjoyed His blessings**? Most certainly.
- Do we **want His blessings**? Absolutely!
- Are we willing to be personally responsible for the nation our kids and grandkids experience? We can!

What does God say is the divine key?

The Psalm begins as many of the Psalms with

- **The Call To Worship/Praise/Rejoice** vs. 1-3

Then...

- **The Case For Worship** vs. 4-10

“For...” – The Psalmist tells us “*Why*”.

Woven throughout the next few verses are truths about the **Word of God** and the **Works of God**, operating in perfect harmony.

Then, The Case for Worship Focuses on...

The Counsel Of The Lord.

I. Introduction. Vs. 9-10

The Peril – vs.10 – “*nought*” and “*none effect*”; “*All other ground is sinking sand*”

The Premise: Vs. 11 - “*The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever...*”. Vs. 11
God is revealing everlasting counsel- wisdom of the ages

The Profound: vs. 11 : “*the thoughts of his heart to all generations*”

- **“the thoughts of his heart”**- *Think of it! The magnitude. The pure wonder.*

- **"to all generations"**

The Psalmist is leading us from a moment in time long ago to the timeless God and His heart for all people for all time!

****Illustration:**

"America's Time Capsule" was officially sealed and buried at Independence National Historical Park yesterday, July 4, 2026, to be reopened in 2276. We won't be around, obviously, but it would be cool to witness the response...
Imagine archaeologists opening a capsule from 1776...
We'd lean in to hear what our founders wanted to say.

This morning we're opening something much older and more powerful: God gave the Psalmist a **"time capsule"** for us, today. What wonders from thousands of years ago are intended for us to unpack today?!

II. The Exclamation: vs. 12 - **"Blessed is the nation..."**

This weekend we celebrate the 250th Birthday of these United States of America!

A. We rejoice in the realities of that truth:

We could spend our entire time this morning counting our blessings and rejoicing with grateful hearts. **We have been blessed!**

B. Why? Many reasons are offered. **But our text reveals the core:** **"whose God is the LORD"** – **Jehovah!**

Our incredible history provides verification of the timeless truth...

- On **September 7, 1774**, the **First Continental Congress** opened in Philadelphia. At the suggestion of Samuel Adams, Reverend Jacob Duché read Psalm 35 and prayed...

O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we

beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee...

All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior... Amen.

- 1776 AD – Declaration of Independence – *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...”*

It ends: *“For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance upon the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”*

- Benjamin Franklin, when Constitutional difficulties arose at the Constitutional Convention, Rose to speak...
“Mr. President, I perceive that we are not in a position to pursue this business further... And while I am on my feet, I move you, sir, and I am astonished that it has not been done before, for when we signed the Declaration of Independence we had a chaplain to read the Bible and pray daily; and I now move that when we meet again we have a chaplain to meet with us and invoke the blessing of Heaven... if it be true that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, surely a nation cannot rise without His aid.”

George Washington seconded the motion...

- As **States** were formed and Constitutions established - ***All Acknowledged and declared dependence on the God of Heaven***
 - Massachusetts... *“A free state, dependent solely upon God.”*
 - Rhode Island... *“We, the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution of government.”*
 - New York... *“WE THE PEOPLE of the State of New York, grateful to Almighty God for our Freedom, in order to secure its blessings, DO ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.*

• **ALL!**

▪ **God was the cornerstone of education!**

- The **New England Primer**, first textbook printed in America, was introduced in Boston in 1690. In it - “An Alphabet of Lessons For Youth”
 - **A** Wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother
 - **B**etter is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith
 - **C**ome unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and he will give you rest

▪ **Harvard**, America’s first College, founded 1636

- Named for Rev. John Harvard
- Laws and Statutes For Students of Harvard College, 1643
- *Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3)*

▪ **Our National Anthem- The Star Spangled banner** – adopted by Congress in 1931. **Verse 4** –

*"Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation,
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, in God is our trust."*

▪ **Our History’s Most Patriotic Songs have pointed us to God!**

America the beautiful –

*America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

America- “My country tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty...

*Our fathers' God to Thee, Author of Liberty,
To thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright With Freedom's holy light,
Protect us by thy might Great God, our King.*

God Bless America!

- **Our money: *In God We Trust***
- **Our pledge of Allegiance: “One nation, under God...”**

We have been blessed! We celebrate not our greatness but His goodness and grace.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord". We are living proof!

But, what does it mean?

III. Explanation. (The Time Capsule opened...)

A. The People:

Nations don't repent; People repent.

Nations don't trust; People trust.

Nations don't fear God; Hearts fear God.

The blessing of a nation has always begun in the hearts of its people.

A nation is no more than, no greater or worse than, its people.

Vs. 10- "the people... chosen for his own inheritance".

In our terms, today- **Paul, Ephesians 1**

4. According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

7. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12. **That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

That is every one of us who has trusted Jesus Christ as Personal Savior!

Vs. 13 – "all the sons of men" – "The world" of John 3:16!

Vs. 14 – "all the inhabitants of the earth"

B. The Providence: Almighty, Eternal God is working in personal relationships!

Vs. 11 - *“the thoughts of His heart to all generations”*

Vs. 13 – Jehovah sees all the sons of men.

You are not invisible.

You are not alone.

You are seen by the One Who matters most!

Vs. 14- *“From the place of His habitation”* He gazes...

Vs. 15 – *“Fashions their hearts”*- Good and Godly growth

Again, **He warns of the peril of false alternatives:**

- In vs. 10 He warned of false counsel and human alternatives;
- In Vs. 16-17 He notes incapable sources of security

Continuing the contrast in choices -

Vs. 18 – *“The eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him”*

Vs. 19 – *“to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine”*

Not just distant observation, but protection and security

Cf. Jesus- John 10:10!

Vs. 20 *“He is our help and shield”*

C. The Personal Response:

- Not everyone enjoys the goodness of God.
- Not everyone experiences the blessings of God. In fact, many choose to reject Him and stand against Him.

Our time capsule reveals **God’s counsel**- His direction. **The single greatest thing we can do to invoke Divine Blessing Upon Our Nation is to, as His Children, be people God will bless. The choices and actions He counsels us to make:**

Vs. 18- Fear him

Vs. 21- Trust Him!

Vs. 18- Live in His hope!

Vs. 20- Waiteth for the Lord

Vs. 21- REJOICE IN HIM!!

Vs. 22- Hope in Him!

Yesterday America buried a time capsule for people living in 2276.

This morning, **we've opened an ancient time capsule and pondered its contents,**
And

We will leave this place having buried another.

- Every prayer.
- Every act of faith.
- Every grandchild we influence.
- Every neighbor we love.
- Every time we choose God's counsel over the world's counsel...

We are

- Giving our God something to bless, and
- We are preserving something today for our children and theirs.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

The greatest thing I can do for my nation is become the kind of person God delights to bless. Tomorrow's blessed nation begins today, with us.