



# PILGRIM SONGS:

✠ THE PSALMS OF ASCENT ✠





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Psalm 128:1-6

Blessed Is Everyone Who Feels the LORD

A Song of Ascents.

[1] Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!

[2] You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. (ESV)



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Psalm 128:1-6

[3] Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.

[4] Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the LORD.





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Psalm 128:1-6

[5] The LORD bless you from Zion!

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!

[6] May you see your children's children!

Peace be upon Israel! (ESV)



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

*To “fear the LORD”/ be in awe means  
to be so awe struck that **your entire life**  
comes under the submission of his ways*





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

The fear of the **LORD** = Gods personal name Yahweh/YHWH

Israelites wanted to honor the sacred nature of this divine name. So as they read the Hebrew Bible aloud and they came to this name, they stopped saying Yahweh and instead started saying the Hebrew word for “Lord,” which is adonai.

Now this practice has been continued throughout the centuries, and so later, when people started translating the Bible into English, they adopted this same practice. Instead of spelling out the divine name, they translate it as “LORD” spelled in all capital letters.





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

The fear of the **LORD** = Gods personal name Yahweh/YHWH

Ancient Jewish scribes wanted to prevent anyone from even accidentally saying this name aloud when you read the Hebrew Bible, and so they came up with a visual device to remind you to make sure you say adonai. They took the four consonant letters of the divine name. These letters correspond to our English letters, YHWH.

So **YHWH** is pronounced without moving the tongue or the lips. A literal inhale and exhale was speaking the personal name of God as to say He is our breath, our life. So every human being that has ever drawn breath has honored the name of God by simply breathing. The first and last word that will come from your mouth will be His name.



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

*The first step to walk in the way of the LORD is here  
to Revere/ be in Awe of the LORD*





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

*If our awe is not set vertically,  
then our awe will always land on horizontal things.*

*— PAUL DAVID TRIPP*



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

[1] Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!

[2] You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

Vs2 there is a blessing from the Lord in a our labor...

- First thing to note is that there is labor on our part... to walk in His ways requires steps from us (effort)
- Second is that needs are met... he doesn't say that you will have more or less than you need (trust)
- The previous 2 psalms point this out HE IS TRUSTWORTHY





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Vs 3&4 there is a blessing from the Lord in our homes/family/immediate community

[3] Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.

[4] Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the LORD.

- Home becomes a fruitful place
- When we walk in His ways our homes become a place where all those in it have opportunity to thrive



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Vs 5 & 6 is a prayer for those blessings to be fulfilled from God in His people generation upon generation

[5] The LORD bless you from Zion!

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!

[6] May you see your children's children!

Peace be upon Israel!

- To live a long life to experience the blessing of generational fruitfulness in walking with the Lord
- This goes beyond familial lines to Jesus ushering in a whole new way and kingdom





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

- For those that fear the LORD, here is what Jesus said it will look like to walk in His ways

Matthew 5:2–10

## The Beatitudes

[2] And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

[3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

[5] “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

[6] “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[7] “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

[8] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

[9] “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Matthew 5:11–16

[11] *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

[13] *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.*

[14] *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)*





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

We are blessed when we walk in His ways  
but we aren't the only beneficiaries.

God will use his people as examples of his grace  
to draw others to himself.

The world can only offer a counterfeit.



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Ray Ortland  
The Unbeatitudes

Congratulations to the entitled, for this world lies at their feet.

Congratulations to the carefree, for they shall be comfortable.

Congratulations to the pushy, for they shall get ahead.

Congratulations to the greedy, for they shall climb the food chain.

Congratulations to the vengeful, for they shall be feared.

Congratulations to those who don't get caught, for they shall look good.

Congratulations to the argumentative, for they shall get in the last word.

Congratulations to the popular, for this world lies at their feet.





# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

As we are reminded that we are a **blessed** people in Christ... we pray that we seek to be marked by the **fear of the LORD**.

So this week look for opportunities and moments to stand amazed at the LORD YHWH

- **In silence and solitude**
- **Digging into His word**
- Singing His truths
- Enjoying fruitful vines and olive shoots in your life



# A Song of Ascents: Psalm 128

Psalm 35:27–28

[27] Let those who delight in my righteousness  
shout for joy and be glad  
and say evermore,

“Great is the LORD,  
who *delights in* the welfare of his *servant!*”

[28] Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness  
and of your praise all the day long. (ESV)

