

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 709 June 6, 2019

A Grateful King

Bill Brinkworth

Some commentaries suggest the song Psalm 30 was written when David completed a threshing floor. Others believe it was penned when he brought the Ark to Jerusalem. I usually, unless suggested not to by Scriptural statements, try to understand what is written literally. The title states that the Psalm was for the dedication of David's palace, and it makes sense from what follows.

I can imagine how King David must have felt after fighting battles, facing defeats and victories, completing the construction of the Temple, and finally finishing the erection of his own home. He must have been joyful and thoughtful at the occasion. The leader counted his many blessings and how God was responsible for all of them.

The leader was most grateful that God:

- Took a little shepherd boy and made him a king (vs. 1: "lifted me up").

- Gave him military triumphs and that his enemies never celebrated beating David and his armies (vs. 1).
- Healed him from apparently serious afflictions (vss. 2-3).
- Was so Holy and did not always give the king a taste of the Almighty's wrath when David sinned (vss. 4-5).
- Allowed David to be prosperous (vs. 6).
- Allowed him and his kingdom to withstand trials and tribulations (vs. 7).
- Was there when David needed the Lord (vs. 7).

David's thankful heart should be a model for our gratefulness. God has done so much for us, even the ungodly, yet little recognition and appreciation are given to Him.

We should count our blessings from the Lord every day. We have much for which to be grateful. Let us lift up our voices and give Him the praise He is due. Thank you, Lord!

“Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.” — *Unknown*

Count Your Blessings

Hymn by Johns Oatman

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed
 When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
 Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

“Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and contentment, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.” — *Kingsley*

The Blessing of Being Robbed

Matthew Henry

Bible commentator Matthew Henry, after being robbed, wrote in his diary the following: "Let me be thankful. First, because I was never robbed before. Second, because although they took my wallet, they did not take my life. Third, because they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

“God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in meek and thankful hearts.” — *Walton*

Praise

A. Fuller

Praise is the believer's helper in his trials and his companion after trials.

- Jehoshaphat's army sang praises before the battle.
- David sang praises in the cave while being pursued.
- Daniel, when the trap was set for his life, prayed and gave thanks three times a day as usual.
- Jesus, when He would raise Lazarus, first lift His heart in thanks to the Father, and before He went to supper, he first sang a hymn.

“The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.” — *Beecher*

A Praising Spirit

P. B. Power

The sailors give a cheery cry as they weigh anchor. Plowmen whistle in the morning as they drive their mule team. The milkmaid sings her happy song as she sets about her early task. When soldiers are leaving friends behind, they do not march out to the tune of “Dead March in Saul,” but to the quick notes of some lively song.

A praising spirit would do good for us all as did the songs and music for those people. If only we could determine to praise the Lord, we could do well during a difficulty which our low spirits would never have been able to do.

We would do double the work which can be done if our heart was happy and content. It would crush and trodden down an unhappy, defeated spirit. As the evil spirit in Saul was soothed and calmed by young David's harp music, so would the spirit of melancholy often take flight from us if only we would take up a song of praise.

"It takes no character or integrity to murmur and complain. However, it takes the Spirit of God in a godly person to be joyful amidst difficulties." — *B. B.*

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." *James 1:2*

Some Murmur, Some Are Thankful

Trench, 1881

Some murmur when their sky is clear
And wholly brought to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In the great heaven of blue;
And some with thankful love are filled
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy gild
The darkness of their night.
In palaces are hearts that ask,
In discontent and pride,
Why life is such a dreary task
And all good things denied?
And hearts in poorest huts admire

How love has been their aid
(Love that never seems to tire)
Such rich provision made.

“Ingratitude dries up the fountain of all goodness.”

— Richelieu

Never Happy

Stennett

The discontented man is ever restless and uneasy. He is dissatisfied with his station in life, his connections, and almost every circumstance that happens to him. He is continually peevish and fretful, impatient of every injury he receives, and unduly impressed with every disappointment he suffers.

He considers most other persons as happier than himself and enjoys hardly any of the blessings of Providence with a calm and grateful mind. He forms to himself a thousand distressing fears concerning the future, and makes his present condition unhappy, by anticipating the misery he may endure in years to come.

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.” *Proverb 27:20*