

PSALM 144

After blessing Yahweh as his helper and defender, David breaks out into a strain of reflection upon the weakness and instability of man, the justness of which no one can argue, for all must feel that to God alone must they look for aid in both temporal and spiritual dangers. Twice David prays for deliverance from the heathen; and we are admonished to pray for that great and glorious day when all principalities, powers, might, and dominion shall be made subject to the Son, and God shall be all in all. Meanwhile the blessings of temporal peace are most beautifully described toward the close of the psalm. And at its conclusion the Psalmist reflects on the great happiness of a people in such circumstances, and declares that that happiness must be the effect of Yahweh's special favor.

A Psalm of David

- 1 Blessed be YAHWEH, my rock, who trains my hands for war, *and* my fingers for battle;
- 2 my lovingkindness and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield and He in whom I take refuge, who subdues my people under me.
- 3 O YAHWEH, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?
Or the son of man, that You think of him?
- 4 Man is like a mere breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

- 5 Bow Your heavens, O YAHWEH, and come down;
touch the mountains, that they may smoke.
- 6 Flash forth lightning and scatter them; send out Your arrows and confuse them.
- 7 Stretch forth Your hand from on high;
rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hand of aliens
- 8 whose mouths speak deceit, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

- 9 I will sing a new song to You, O God;
upon a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,
- 10 who gives salvation to kings, who rescues David His servant from the evil sword.
- 11 Rescue me and deliver me out of the hand of aliens,
whose mouth speaks deceit and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

- 12 Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants,
and our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace;
- 13 let our garners be full, furnishing every kind of produce,
and our flocks bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;
- 14 let our cattle bear without mishap and without loss, *let there be* no outcry in our streets!
- 15 How blessed are the people who are so situated;
how blessed are the people whose God is YAHWEH!

PRAYER

Gracious Yahweh, you are our strength, our hope, our deliverer, and our defender in whom we trust. Stretch forth your right hand and deliver us from those spiritual enemies who so often get the dominion over us. Without your help we are poor, weak, and miserable. Our offenses have become a sore burden, too heavy for us to bear. But you delight in showing mercy, you delight in being gracious. And who else is a pardoning God like you? There is none other. We boldly proclaim our faith in Christ's shed blood for our forgiveness, and beseech you to shower down an abundance of your Holy Spirit that we might walk the straight and narrow path without faltering. We place ourselves unreservedly in your hands. Accept our grateful praise and hear our prayers. Amen.