

"Revel in the Goodness"

Psalms 128*

Derek Kidner writes: "The quiet blessings of an ordered life are traced from the centre outwards in this psalm, as the eye travels from the godly man to his family and finally to Israel. Here is simple piety with its proper fruit of stability and peace."

The believer who really enjoys life the most is the one who acknowledges **the LORD** in every area of life and **who walks** in practical obedience to the Word of God.

Blessings on the individual (1-2)

Blessings on the family (3-4)

Blessings on the nation (5-6)

Songs of Ascent Triads

The 'Songs of Ascents' (Pss. 120-134) fall into five groups of three.

The first four of these groups (Pss. 120-131) share the following characteristics:

- the first psalm in each group exposes a situation of distress (120, 123, 126, 130);
- the second emphasizes the Lord's power to keep/deliver/build/give hope (121, 124, 127, 130); and
- the third has the theme of security: in Zion (122, 125, 128); in the Lord (131).

The pilgrim who begins far off in a harsh world (120), indeed in this world's 'darkness' (*Kedar*, 120:5, means 'black') ends in a very different *night* (134:1), secure in the Lord's house and under his blessing.⁵

Songs of Ascent — Literary Forms⁶ (Genres*)

*Genre refers to a group of texts similar in their mood, content, structure or phraseology.

Psalm	Writer	Theme	Genre
Psalm 120	unknown	Repentance	Lament of the Individual
Psalm 121	unknown	Providence	Confidence of the Individual
Psalm 122	David	Worship	Canticles of Zion
Psalm 123	unknown	Service	Lament of the Community
Psalm 124	David	Help	Thanksgiving of the Community
Psalm 125	unknown	Security	Confidence of the Community
Psalm 126	unknown	Joy	Lament of the Community
Psalm 127	Solomon	Work	Wisdom
Psalm 128	unknown	Happiness	Wisdom
Psalm 129	unknown	Perseverance	Confidence of the Community
Psalm 130	unknown	Hope	Lament of the Individual
Psalm 131	David	Humility	Confidence of the Individual
Psalm 132	unknown	Obedience	Royal
Psalm 133	David	Community	Wisdom
Psalm 134	unknown	Blessing	Liturgy

As we read a psalm, we learn about God and his care for us. We learn about ourselves as well. We understand our situation better because the whole gamut of human experience is expressed in the Psalter. The Psalms speak to all seasons of our souls.

Our intellect is informed, our emotions are refined, and our wills are directed. What further motivation do we need to spend time reading and meditating on the Psalms?

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

⁴ Derek Kidner, *Psalms 73-150: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 16, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975), 479.

⁵ J. A. Motyer, "The Psalms," in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England: Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 572.

⁶ Leopold Sabourin, S.J. *The Psalms, Their Origin and Meaning*.