

PSALM 144 - 2024 – A Song to the LORD Who Preserves and Prospers His People!

8/17/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

ROCK OF AGES— Augustus Toplady (1740-1778), sung by Ernie Ford (2:39)

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.*

*Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know
These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyelids close in death.
When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy throne.
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let me hide myself in Thee.*

PSALM 144 A Psalm of David.

(Psa 144:1-15) Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle— [2] My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me. [3] LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him? [4] Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow. [5] Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. [6] Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them. [7] Stretch out Your hand from above; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, From the hand of foreigners, [8] Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood. [9] I will sing a new song to You, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You, [10] The One who gives salvation to kings, Who delivers David His servant From the deadly sword. [11] Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood— [12] That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style; [13] That our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce; That our sheep may bring forth thousands And ten thousands in our fields; [14] That our oxen may be well laden; That there be no breaking in or going out; That there be no outcry in our streets. [15] Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

**PSALM 144 A Song to the LORD Who Preserves and Prospers His People - A Psalm of David
My Rock and My Fortress**

Psa 144:1 A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD my Rock (strength), Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—

- **Blessed be the LORD my Rock.** It begins with blessings. He cannot delay the utterance of his gratitude, he bursts at once into a loud note of praise. His best word is given to his best friend - “Blessed be the LORD my Rock! When the heart is in a right state it must praise God, it cannot be restrained; its utterances leap forth as waters forcing their way from a living spring. With all his strength David blesses the God of his strength.

- **Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—**. If we have strength we are not much the better unless we have skill also. Untrained force is often an injury to the man who possesses it, and it even becomes a danger to those who are round about him; and therefore the Psalmist blesses the Lord as much for teaching as for strength. Let us also bless Jehovah if he has in anything made us efficient.

Psa 144:2 My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

- David sees God as that place of total and complete protection. God is a sanctuary for His people. The fortress, the high tower, my shield, the One in whom I trust!

Psa 144:3 LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?

- Have you ever wondered that? Just who am I that God would take any thoughts concerning me or God would have knowledge of me? God, Who is eternal thinking of me, a short-lived man! Who am I that God should be thinking about me? What is man that God should take knowledge of him? And that used to always just be to me such an awesome thought—that here I am, just nothing, a speck on dust on this little planet earth. And yet God has knowledge of me! The God who controls and governs the universe, has knowledge of me! He takes thought of me! And that always, always, just amazed me, and still does!

Psa 144:4 Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

- **Man is like a breath:** Or the son of man that You would take any account of him, because man is like nothing—emptiness.
- **His days are like a passing shadow..** Your time here is just for a moment—like a shadow of a sundial, the shadow that passes away. An hour that passes by. And so as the Scripture says, what is life? It's just a vapor. It appears for a season and then vanishes. It's like grass. It grows up today, but tomorrow, it's cast in the oven. It dies. And the cycles of life, they are so short! And yet God places such value and such importance upon me and upon you! He takes account of you. He thinks about you. He has knowledge of you.

Psa 144:5 Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

- So David prays, Lord, bring me close to You. Let me see Your power!
- **Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.** It was so when the LORD appeared on Sinai; the strongest pillars of earth cannot bear the weight of the finger of God. He is a consuming fire, and His touch kindles the peaks of the Alps, and makes them smoke. If Jehovah would appear, nothing could stand before Him! (**Exo 19:18**) *Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.*

Psa 144:6 Flash forth lightning and scatter them (his enemies); Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

- He sees the lightning as God's arrows. I like that! It's a beautiful picture of speech, it's sharp. God, You know, set Your arrows, Your lightning—the arrows, oh man, who can dodge it you know? God's arrows—I love that! Lord, you know, scatter them! Cast forth Your lightning.

Psa 144:7 Stretch out Your hand from above; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, From the hand of foreigners (God's enemies),

- This was probably written at a time when David was fighting against the Philistines or the Edomites, or the Ammonites or those other strange children, the aliens that surrounded them. So he's asking for God's help. Lord, You've taught me to war. You've taught my hands to fight. You are my strength. You are my defense. You are my high tower. Lord, I'm really nothing, but yet, You think about me. You have knowledge of me. And yet, I'm just like nothing. My days are like a shadow that passes, but Lord, bring me close to You! Send Your hand from above.

Psa 144:8 Whose mouth speaks lying (empty, worthless) words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

- Now even then, they had the practice of “raise your right hand and swear.” And so these guys would raise their right hand and they would swear, but they would be lying through their teeth, you know. I swear the truth. I swear to God, man, it's true, you know. They would be lying through their teeth. And so their right hand is the right hand of falsehood.

Psa 144:9 I will sing a new song to You, O God; On a harp of ten strings (best instrument) I will sing praises to You,

- The psalteries were a string type of harp, instrument. And David, of course, played upon the psaltery. He played the harp—skillfully, actually. It was a stringed instrument with ten strings. And I will use it to accompany the psalms. The minstrels would sing, accompanying themselves on these harps, the ten stringed harps. So I will sing praises to You! (***Psa 96:1-4 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. [2] Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. [3] Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. [4] For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.***)

Psa 144:10 The One who gives salvation to kings, Who delivers David His servant From the deadly sword.

- ***The One who gives salvation to kings.*** Those whom the Lord sets up He will keep up. Kings, from their conspicuous position, are exposed to special danger, and when their lives and their thrones are preserved to them they should give the Lord the glory of it. In his many battles David would have perished had not Almighty care preserved him. He had by his valor wrought salvation for Israel, but he lays his laurels at the feet of his Lord and Preserver. If any men need salvation kings do, and if they get it the fact is so astonishing that it deserves a verse to itself in the Psalm of praise. ***Who delivers David His servant From the deadly sword.*** He traces his escape from death to the delivering hand of God.

Psa 144:11 Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood—

- Because of what the Lord had done, David returns to his pleading. He begs deliverance from him who is ever delivering him. ***Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners.*** This is in measure the refrain of the song, and the burden of the prayer. He desired to be delivered from his open and foreign adversaries, who had broken compacts, and treated treaties as vain things. ***Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood—*** He would not strike hands with those who carried a lie in their right hand: he would be quit of such at once, if possible. Those who are surrounded by such serpents know not how to deal with them, and the only available method seems to be payer to God for a riddance and deliverance.

Psa 144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style;

- ***That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth.*** Our sons are of first importance to the state, since men take a leading part in its affairs; and what the young men are the older men will be. He desires that they may be like strong, well rooted, young trees, which promise great things. If they do not grow in their youth, when will they grow? If in their opening manhood they are dwarfed, they will never get over it. O the joys which we may have through our sons! And, on the other hand, what misery they may cause us! Plants may grow crooked, or in some other way disappoint the planter, and so may our sons. But when we see them developed in holiness, what joy we have of them!
- ***That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style;*** We desire a blessing for our whole family, daughters as well as sons. For the girls to be left out of the circle of blessing would be unhappy indeed. Daughters unite families as cornerstones join walls together, and at the same time they adorn them as polished stones garnish the structure into which they are builded. Home becomes a palace when the daughters are maids of honour, and the sons are nobles in spirit; then the father is a king, and the mother a queen, and royal residences are more than outdone. A city built up of such dwellings is a city of palaces, and a state composed of such cities is a republic of princes.

Psa 144:13 That our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce; That our sheep may bring forth thousands And ten thousands in our fields;

- ***That our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce.*** A household must exercise thrift and forethought: it must have its granary as well as its nursery. Husbands should husband their resources; and should not only furnish their tables but fill their garner. Where there are happy households there must needs be plentiful provision for them, for famine brings misery even where love abounds. When all the fruits of the earth are plentiful, the fruits of our lips should be joyful worship and thanksgiving.
- ***That our sheep may bring forth thousands And ten thousands in our fields.*** Or rather in the open places, the fields, and sheep-walks where lambs should be born. A teeming increase is here described.

Psa 144:14 That our oxen may be well laden; That there be no breaking in or going out; That there be no outcry in our streets.

- *That our oxen may be well laden*, so that the plowing and the hauling of the farm may be duly performed, and accomplished without unduly taxing the cattle, or working them cruelly.
- *That there be no breaking in, or going out;*” no irruption of thieves, and no forced emigration; no burglaries and no evictions. “
- *That there be no outcry in our streets.* No secret dissatisfaction, no public riot; no fainting of poverty, no clamor for rights denied, nor concerning wrongs unredressed. The state of things here pictured is very delightful: all is peaceful and prosperous; the throne is occupied efficiently, and even the beasts in their stalls are the better for it.

Psa 144:15 Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

- ***Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy is that people, that is in such a case:*** A case where your children can grow up in peace. Your children can grow up in safety. You don't worry when they are playing out in the neighborhood, that our sons may be able to grow up as plants, that our daughters will be like cornerstones, polished. Beautiful, in the manner of a palace. That there be sufficient for everybody. That the garners are full, that there are plenty of supplies, so that no one is stealing or has to steal from anybody. No complaining in our streets!
- ***Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!*** That is such a case. Yes, happy is the people The people who make Jehovah their God, are people that will be blessed of God. They have God's promises of blessings. No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Our God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus our Lord. Happy are the people, whose God is the LORD!
- So that just leaves, really, one conclusion, make the LORD your God!

CALL UPON THE LORD (3:40) *Elevation Worship*

We need no other hiding place Our hope is safe within Your name This we know, this we know You promise never to forsake What you began You will sustain This we know, this we know

I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain

All of the heavens and the earth Announce the fullness of Your worth This we know, this we know

And every enemy will flee As we declare your victory This we know, this we know

I will call upon the Lord For he alone is strong enough to save

Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain

Jesus' name will break every stronghold Freedom is ours when we call His name

Jesus' name above every other All hail the power of Jesus' name

I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save

Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi - India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Bola Tinubu - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin - Russia; Lopez Obrador–Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu–Israel; Olaf Scholz – Germany; Keir Starmer – U.K.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY; ISRAEL: FOR STATES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! LOUISIANA! TENNESSEE!

OKLAHOMA? OTHER STATES?

CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW LOCATION!!