

# Psalms 128:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

## Analysis

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The nature of blessing is specified: 'For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.' The word 'for' explains the blessing announced in verse 1. The phrase 'eat the labour of thine hands' promises that honest work will produce fruit one can enjoy. This blessing includes both productive labor and ability to enjoy its results - neither is guaranteed apart from God's favor. Some work hard but never enjoy fruit (Ecclesiastes 6:2); others eat what others labored for (conquest, oppression). The promise is that God-fearers will benefit from their own work. The parallel phrases 'happy shalt thou be' and 'it shall be well with thee' emphasize comprehensive well-being - emotional satisfaction (happiness) and circumstantial blessing (things going well). This verse describes material, vocational, and personal flourishing as results of fearing God.

## Historical Context

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In an agricultural economy, eating the fruit of one's labor wasn't automatic - drought, invasion, oppression, or disease could prevent it. The covenant promised blessing on work for those who obeyed (Deuteronomy 28:11-12), while cursing meant laboring without enjoying results (Deuteronomy 28:30-33). This verse reflects covenant theology where righteousness produces practical blessing.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does eating 'the labour of thine hands' differ from wealth obtained through inheritance, oppression, or chance?
2. What relationship exists between honest work, God's blessing, and enjoying results?
3. How do we reconcile this promise with believers who work hard but experience poverty or loss?
4. What does 'it shall be well with thee' mean when Christians face persecution or hardship?
5. How does this verse guard against both laziness (not laboring) and anxiety (not trusting God to bless labor)?

## Interlinear Text

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אָשָׁר יְבָרֵךְ	תָּאכַל לְ	כִּי	כִּי פִּיבָּנָה	וְיָשַׁעַת
the labour	of thine hands	H3588	For thou shalt eat	happy
H3018	H3709		H398	H835
בְּנֵי אָמֵן וְבָרֵךְ	לְ			
shalt thou be and it shall be well	H0			
H2896				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 3:10** (Parallel theme): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

**Isaiah 62:8** (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured:

**Deuteronomy 28:4** (Parallel theme): Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

**Deuteronomy 28:11** (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**Ecclesiastes 8:12** (Parallel theme): Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

**Isaiah 65:13** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

**Jeremiah 22:15** (Parallel theme): Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him?

**Ephesians 6:3** (Parallel theme): That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

**Deuteronomy 28:51** (Parallel theme): And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.