

Psalm 128:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Analysis

The blessing extends beyond personal to communal: 'The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.' The phrase 'out of Zion' connects personal blessing to God's presence in the temple/Jerusalem. Zion represents where God dwells among His people; blessing flows from God's presence and covenant relationship. Personal flourishing (vv. 2-3) is inseparable from participation in covenant community. The promise 'thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem' means witnessing the holy city's prosperity, peace, and thriving. The individual's welfare is bound to the community's welfare. The temporal phrase 'all the days of thy life' extends blessing across the entire lifespan - not momentary but sustained throughout one's years. This verse prevents individualism by linking personal blessing to corporate health.

Historical Context

Jerusalem/Zion was Israel's religious and political center - God's dwelling place and the nation's capital. Individual Israelites' prosperity depended partly on national stability, temple worship continuity, and covenant community health. The exile demonstrated how individual and corporate fortunes were intertwined. For pilgrims singing this psalm, seeing Jerusalem's good was tangible evidence of God's blessing.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that blessing comes 'out of Zion' rather than directly from heaven?
2. How are personal and corporate blessing connected - why can't individuals fully flourish apart from community?
3. What is 'the good of Jerusalem' that God-fearers will witness?
4. How does the promise of seeing blessing 'all the days of thy life' encourage long-term faithfulness?
5. How do Christians experience blessing 'out of Zion' today - how has the location/meaning shifted?

Interlinear Text

ירֹשֶׁלָם	בְּטַבְעָבָן	רָאָה	מֵאַת	יְהִי הָרָבָבָן	בְּרָכָה
shall bless	The LORD	thee out of Zion	and thou shalt see	the good	of Jerusalem
H1288	H3068	H6726	H7200	H2898	H3389
לְכָל	ימָם	מִתְבָּבָן			
H3605	all the days	of thy life			
	H3117	H2416			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 20:2 (Parallel theme): Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

Psalms 134:3 (Blessing): The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.

Isaiah 33:20 (References Jerusalem): Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.

Psalms 118:26 (Blessing): Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 2:3 (References Lord): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Psalms 122:6 (References Jerusalem): Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Psalms 135:21 (Blessing): Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.