

Psalm 40:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Analysis

The Hebrew *ashrei* (blessed) describes the deep contentment of one whose trust is exclusively in Yahweh. The contrast with 'the proud' and 'such as turn aside to lies' reveals two competing objects of trust: God's faithful character versus human arrogance and deception. This blessing comes not from circumstances but from the posture of the heart that looks to God alone for security and meaning.

Historical Context

David composed this psalm likely during a time of deliverance from enemies. The reference to 'proud' and 'lies' may allude to Saul's court or later enemies who relied on political scheming rather than divine guidance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'lies' does our culture turn aside to that compete with trusting God?
2. How does pride prevent us from experiencing the blessing of trusting in the LORD?

Interlinear Text

מְבָטֵחַ	וְ	הַ	קְדוּשָׁה	שֶׁ	מְ	בָּרָךְ	אֲשֶׁר	בָּגְדָּאֵד	אֲשֶׁר	שְׁמָךְ	אֲשֶׁר	בָּרָךְ	אָשָׁר
Blessed	is that man		H834	that maketh		the LORD		his trust					H3808
H835	H1397			H7760		H3068		H4009					
כָּבֵד	וְ	יְמִינָה	אֶל	פָּנָי	וְ	יְמִינָה	אֶל	פָּנָי	וְ	יְמִינָה	אֶל	פָּנָי	וְ
and respecteth	H413	not the proud		nor such as turn aside		to lies							
H6437		H7295		H7750		H3577							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:8 (Faith): O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Psalms 125:5 (References Lord): As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

Psalms 2:12 (Faith): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalms 15:4 (References Lord): In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Jonah 2:8 (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

Psalms 119:21 (Parallel theme): Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.