

**Psalm 144** <sup>1</sup>

**"A Prayer of David for Divine Enablement and Protection in  
Battle, Accompanied by Divine Blessing upon Israel"**

*(A Psalm of David.)*

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**A1 DAVID'S PRAISE OF YAHWEH FOR ENABLING HIM, DESPITE HIS  
INSIGNIFICANCE AND MORTALITY, TO WAGE WAR 144:1-4**

**B1 His Blessing of Yahweh for Aiding and Protecting Him in Battle 144:1-2**

C1 For Training Him in Battle 144:1

D1 Blessings upon Yahweh his foundation: *{1}* Blessed be the  
LORD, my rock,

D2 Training his hands: Who trains my hands for war,

D3 Teaching his fingers: *And* my fingers for battle;

C2 For Protecting Him in Battle 144:2 <sup>2</sup>

D1 His safe-keeping loyal love: *{2}* My lovingkindness and my  
fortress,

D2 His strong deliverance: My stronghold and my deliverer,

D3 His reliable protection: My shield and He in whom I take refuge,

D4 His insurance of cooperation: Who subdues my people under  
me.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 144: Much of this psalm is borrowed from the language of Psalm 18, also a psalm of David.

<sup>2</sup> 144:2: The words are very similar to Ps 18:2.

<sup>3</sup> 144:2 - Who subdues my people under me. Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament (K & D)*, opines, "David, the anointed one, but not having as yet ascended to the throne, here gives expression to the hope that Jahve will grant him deeds of victory which will compel Israel to submit to him, whether willingly or reluctantly." Both Allen P. Ross, *Psalms, The Bible Knowledge Commentary (TBKC)* and Tom Constable, *Dr. Constable's Notes on Psalms*, Soniclight.com, however, take the position that David is already king. The point

**B2 His Amazement That Yahweh Takes Notice of Him, an Insignificant Mortal 144:3-4**

C1 His Amazement at Yahweh's Notice of Him 144:3 <sup>4</sup>

D1 Knowing him: {3} O LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?

D2 Thinking of him: Or the son of man, that You think of him?

C2 Because of His Minuscule Mortality 144:4

D1 Like a breath: {4} Man is like a mere breath;

D2 Like a shadow: His days are like a passing shadow.

**A2 DAVID'S PRAYER TO YAHWEH TO AID HIM IN BATTLE 144:5-8**

**B1 With Dramatic Descent 144:5**

C1 Reaching Down to Earth: {5} Bow <sup>5</sup> Your heavens, O LORD, and come down;

C2 With Dreadful, Sinai-Like Shock: Touch the mountains, that they may smoke.<sup>6</sup>

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here is that not even a monarch can govern effectively without the consent of the governed. Yahweh had secured that consent for David.

<sup>4</sup> 144:3: Reminiscent of Ps 8:4.

<sup>5</sup> 144:5 - Bow (*natah*, 5186): David was requesting that Yahweh would bend (as in bend a bow) or stretch out (see Exod 7:5) the heavens from above down to the earth so that He could come down and dramatically intervene on David's behalf.

<sup>6</sup> 144:5 - smoke (*ashan* 6225): The reference is clearly to Exodus 19:18, "Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke (*ashan* 6225) because the LORD descended on it in fire; and its smoke (*ashan* 6227) ascended like the smoke (*ashan* 6227) of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently." The literal shock of experiencing Yahweh's majesty and greatness created such fear in the Israelis that they requested of Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us or we will die" (Exod. 20:19). David, in Ps 144:5, was requesting that his enemies experience that same awesome shock from Yahweh!

**B2 With Dramatic Confusion 144:6**

- C1 Scattering His Enemies with Lightning: {6} Flash forth lightning and scatter them;
- C2 Confusing His Enemies with His Arrows (of Lightning): Send out Your arrows <sup>7</sup> and confuse them.

**B3 Rescuing Him from Deceitful Enemies 144:7-8 <sup>8</sup>**

- C1 As if from a Flood of Foreigners 144:7
  - D1 Stretching down: {7} Stretch forth Your hand from on high;
  - D2 Saving him from drowning: Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters,
  - D3 From a flood of the sons of foreigners: Out of the hand of aliens.
- C2 Who Employ False Propaganda 144:8
  - D1 Deceit: {8} Whose mouths speak deceit,<sup>9</sup>
  - D2 Falsehood: And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

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<sup>7</sup> 144:6 - arrows: Poetic description of lightning, which David was requesting Yahweh to use with devastating effect upon his enemies.

<sup>8</sup> 144:7-8: Parts of this text appear again in 144:11.

<sup>9</sup> 144:7 - deceit: It has ever been thus. The Muslim leaders of the Middle East (such as the late Yasser Arafat) say one thing to the press in English, for western consumption, but trumpet an entirely different rhetoric to their constituents in Arabic. In Islam it is permissible to lie in jihad. It is permissible to make a peace treaty with the full realization that they are using the treaty as a respite to regroup and restock their arsenal with even more deadly weapons to rain down upon Israel. For example, the Hezbollah used Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon not as a time for peace, but only to arm themselves with thousands of deadly Katyusha rockets which they are now firing at Israel in the Hezbollah - Israeli War of 2006 with surprising ferocity - as many as 200 today. Furthermore, they fire their rockets from right in the middle of Lebanese residential areas and immediately run away because they want the Israelis to target Lebanese civilians in order to propagandize the Israelis as cruel and over-reactionary. So far the Muslims, with their lies, are winning the battle for international approval in the press, which is largely pro-Muslim and anti-Israel. The Muslims say they want land for peace but they do not. When Israel gives them land, they merely rearm themselves. Their goal is not peace, but the destruction of Israel. Nothing has changed in 3000 years!

**A3 DAVID'S PROMISE OF PRAISE UPON DELIVERANCE 144:9-11**

**B1 Music, the Mode of Praise 144:9**

C1 A New Song to Elohim: *{9}* I will sing a new song to You, O God;

C2 Accompanied by a Ten-Stringed Harp: Upon a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,

**B2 The Grounds of Praise 144:10**

C1 Elohim is the Savior of Kings: *{10}* Who gives salvation to kings,

C2 Elohim is the Rescuer of David His Servant: Who rescues David His servant from the evil sword.

**B3 The Personal Request for Safety Revisited <sup>10</sup> 144:11**

C1 For Deliverance from the Sons of Foreigners: *{11}* Rescue me and deliver me out of the hand of aliens,

C2 Who Employ False Propaganda

D1 Deceit: Whose mouth speaks deceit

D2 Falsehood: And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

**A4 DAVID'S PRAYER FOR NATIONAL BLESSINGS 144:12-15**

**B1 Upon Israel's Offspring 144:12**

C1 Our Sons: *{12}* Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants,

C2 Our Daughters: And our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace;

**B2 Upon Israel's Crops: *{13}* Let our garners be full, furnishing every kind of produce, 144:13a**

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<sup>10</sup> 144:11 Title - Revisited: 144:11 is a virtual reprise of 144:7b-8.

**B3 Upon Israel's Flocks and Herds 144:13b-14**

C1 Prolific Flocks: *And* our flocks bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields; 144:13b

C2 Virile Cattle 144:14

D1 Bearing without death-loss: *{14}* Let our cattle bear Without mishap and without loss,

D2 Thus causing no human disappointment: *Let there be* no outcry in our streets!

**B4 Upon Israel's People 144:15**

C1 Their Enviably Situation: *{15}* How blessed are the people who are so situated;

C2 Attributable to Yahweh Being Their Elohim: How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD! <sup>11</sup>

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 144

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<sup>11</sup> 144:15 - How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!: "This royal psalm shows that divine intervention in a holy war on behalf of the Lord's anointed brings peace and prosperity." (Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*)