

## NEWSLETTER 2022-1

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: February 7, 2022

Re: **Characteristics of The Blessed Man**

I continue to regard it as an opportunity, a privilege and a great blessing to be able to present to you these newsletters as God enables. This is my first correspondence since the new year started and it is my prayers that God will continue to richly bless you, your family and supplying all your needs.

The Scripture that I am sharing today came as a result of one of my devotional exercises. I had other references on my mind but somehow God amplified this reference and it remained in my thoughts and prayers until I began to make initial notes and then identifying the main points and sub-points. We are all aware of the many and varied challenges that seem to be prevailing all over the world; the predicaments of so many desperate and hurting people. These needs are an active part of our daily prayers and among the top of the list is the humanitarian crises evident among so many millions. It's compulsory that we continue to pray and believe God to bring deliverance as He will.

We have noted ever-so-often that irrespective of man's ideas and efforts, Jesus Christ, is and will always be the answer for the world!! We have all experienced and continue to experience adverse situations; but we can also testify that irrespective of what may have been our experiences, believers have experience that peace which passes all understanding. This is not something that we hear about, or read about but what we have literally experienced!! Not only the presence and peace of God abides in us and we in Him, and He has supplied our needs in so many ways and we can testify that **definitely, God is a way maker, He makes a way even when there seems to be no way!!**

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BLESSED MAN

**Context: Jer. 17:5 Text: Jer. 17: 7-8**

Irrespective of how man tries to weaken God's Word, the truth remains unchanged. Reading Jeremiah 17 we are taken back to the Book of Psalms and in this situation, we have been presented with a contrast between the righteous and the ungodly. The imagery of the blessed and the curse is clearly presented in these verses, Jer. 17:5-8.

**Note briefly the striking contrast presented regarding these lifestyles:**

1. *The cursed man trusts in man (Jer. 17:5a); the blessed man trust in the LORD (v. 7a).*
2. *The cursed man makes flesh his strength (v. 5a); the blessed man makes the LORD his hope (v. 7b).*
3. *The cursed man shall be like a shrub in the desert (v. 6a); the blessed man shall be like a tree planted by the waters (v. 8a)*

4. *The cursed man shall not see when good comes (v. 6b); the blessed man shall not fear when heat (i. e. trouble) comes (v. 8b).*
5. *The cursed man shall inhabit parched places (v. 6c); the blessed man will not cease from yielding fruit (v. 8c)."*

The above was adapted from Life in Christ Ministries Teachings.

Today, our focus will be on verses 7 and 8, mainly on verse 8. There are four main points which we will discuss briefly. While we cannot go in details it's important to understand that, the people of Judah were trusting in false gods and military instead of God, as a result they were barren and unfruitful (see Jer. 17:5-6). In contrast to those who trust in the LORD and prospered. We need to continuously trust God under **all** circumstances, wait on Him and He will bring it to pass (**Psa. 37:5**; 27:14; Isa. 40:25-31, NB Vv. 29-31).

Allow me to briefly emphasize the necessity to avoid placing emphasis wrongly, as it was with Judah. The word **"flesh"** (v. 5) refers to all temporal things. It certainly is a disappointing and distressing experience to depend upon **"flesh"** for success and relief when we are in any need (**note carefully Jer. 17:5**). The sin here is trusting man, putting confidence in the wisdom and power, the kindness and faithfulness of men, when such should be placed wholly in God; what we do in such situations is raising our expectations to men who are merely instruments of God.

#### **"Blessed is the man"** (Jer. 17:7a) Briefly Noted

1. The phrase **"Blessed is the man"** also describes the OT blessings promised to God's people in Deut. 28:1-14 and the NT blessings in Matt. 5:3-12.
2. **Trusting the LORD moves us from the curses, Vv. 5-6; to the blessings Jer. 17:7-8;** above we already noted the contrast in this passage, for example: The *"shrub (KJV uses "heath" in the desert" (v. 6) with the "tree by the waters" (v. 8).*
3. **Jer. 17:7 Amplified Bible**  
 "[Most] blessed is the man who believes in, trust in, and relies on the LORD, and whose hope and confidence the LORD is."

#### **Jer. 17:8 NKJV**

*"For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit."*

#### **A. Flourishes in Adverse Circumstances Jer. 17:8a.**

*"For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river" (17:8a NKJV).*

1. Brief definition of **"Flourish."**
  - (a) General definition: (1) To grow or develop in a healthy and vigorous way (2) to prosper or succeed.

(b) Biblical definition:

Human flourishing is a key biblical theme that stretches across both testaments.

(1) **In the Bible we find concepts such as peace, blessing, and maturity that reveal God's loving purpose for the people to experience the very best from life.**

(2) The character of the good life is rich and varied! Time wouldn't allow but think of the thoughts of God for us: **Jer. 29:11**; Psa. 40:5, 17; 139:17.

2. In contrast to the barren and unfruitful, those who trust in the LORD flourish like trees planted along a river bank (see Psalm 1).

(a) In times of trouble, those that trust in human beings will be improvised and spiritually weak, so they will have no strength to draw on.

(b) On the other hand, those who trust in the LORD will have abundant strength, not only for their own needs, but even for the needs of others.

3. Beloved, the man who genuinely trust in the LORD will flourish even in time of drought (see **Gen. 26:1-5, 12-16, NB Vv. 12-13**). They flourish in confidence and comfort, like a tree that is always green, whose leaf does not wither; they shall be cheerful to themselves and beautiful in the eyes of others!

#### **B. Favored Status the Hidden Status of Strength Jer. 17:8b**

*"And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaf will be green." (17:8b NKJV)*

1. People see the believers live upright and exemplary lives and wonder what is the difference; they may refer to us as Mr. Smiles, the courteous guy, etc. or commend us in various ways; the fact is, it is not about us but the secret is, by God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10) and His abiding presence in us that we are able and be fruitful **to His glory** (John 15:1-8)

2. Those who give honor to God by giving Him the credit, God will put honor upon them and make them the ornament and delight of where they live and flourish like a green tree.

3. **Beloved, the hidden resources are the secret of the blessed man! His eyes are in the right place; his reliance is not on the arm of flesh but on the everlasting arms of divine omnipotence!** Yet, it is no secret what God can do; what He has done for one He can do it for others! He is the Almighty One!! (Ex. 6:1-8; etc.).

4. No matter the world's conditions, the believers have an eternal well within them:

##### **The Song: "Spring Up O Well"**

I've got a river of life flowing out of me  
 Makes the lame to walk and blind to see,  
 Opens prison doors, set the captives free.  
 I've got a river of life flowing out of me.  
 Spring up, O well, within my soul.  
 Spring up, O well, and make me whole  
 Spring up, O well, and give to me  
 That life abundantly.

5. Note the following references (*Listed without comments*):

**The Living Water**

- (a) Issuing from God's House (Ezek. 47:1).
- (b) Unaffected by Time and Season (Zech. 14:8).
- (c) Jesus Christ is the Source (John 4:10).
- (d) It Satisfies the Deepest Needs (John 7:37-38).
- (e) The Supply is Inexhaustible (Rev. 7:17).
- (f) **It Makes Life Fruitful (Rev. 22:1-2).**
- (g) There is a Universal Call to Partake of It (Rev. 22:17).

**C. Fearlessness in God Our All in All Jer. 17:8c**

*"And will not be anxious in the year of drought" (17:8c NKJV)*

*"And it shall not see and fear when the heat comes" (17:8c Amp. Bible)*

1. Perilous times are here (2 Tim. 3:1) and the adverse circumstances are evident (Matt. 24; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 2 Peter 3:3-7); irrespective of the detrimental situations that are producing fear in so many (**Luke 21:26**) the believers are assured of a life free of anxiety (Matt. 10:28, 31; Luke 2:10; 12:32; **2 Tim. 1:7**).
  - (a) Jesus' disciples were troubled because of His imminent departure but His response to them was that there in no need to worry (John 14:1-4, 18)
  - (b) He also gave the assurance for periods of tribulation (John 16:33)
  - (c) Etc.
2. God's people experience trouble as much as other people, but they do not fear it because they know: (a) "All things work together for" our "good" (Rom. 8:28). (b) That God will give us the strength to bear the challenges (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
3. Our text notes that those who trust in God shall experience an inward peace and satisfaction and will not be overcome with anxiety even in a drought (troublesome times) because they are like a tree planted by the waters (Psa. 1:3; Jer. 17:8).
4. Those who make God their hope has found that all their needs are adequately met in Him (Psa. 36:8; John 10:10; 2 Cor. 9:8; Eph. 3:20; Phil. 4:19). We do not worry about a lack of rain or if the reservoir is dry, God is our fountain of living waters (Isa. 12:3; 58:11; John 4:13-15; Rev. 22:17; **caution see: Jer. 2:13**).
5. **The song: "More Than Enough" (A brief quote)**  
 Jehovah Shammah, You are with me  
 You supply all my needs  
*(This quote taken from the version by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)*  
**Note: Ezek. 48:35 ... "The LORD is there"**

**D. Fruitfulness Assured Jer. 17:8d**

*"Nor will cease from yielding fruit" (17:8d NKJV)*

1. Matthew Henry states:  
*"They shall be fruitful in holiness, and in all good works. Those who trust in God, and by faith derive strength and grace from Him, **shall not cease from yielding fruit**; they*

*shall still be enabled to do that which will redound to the glory of God, the benefit of others, and their own account."*

Note two words in this quote by Matthew Henry

- (a) **"Yielding"**: To produce a lot of fruit
- (b) **"redound"**: *(The verb form)* Contribute greatly

2. **Fruit Bearing**: We have discussed this subject in various studies of which the most recent is Psalm 1 Part A, Pages 18-27. Please note the following highlights from that lesson:

- (a) The blessed person is seen as a tree and not just a tree but **"a tree planted."**
  - (1) This is not a wild growth surviving by chance. He is planted by the Husbandman!
  - (2) He is planted by **"the Rivers of Waters."** The rivers of God's provisions *(From Pages 18 & 19).*
- (b) **The righteous bears fruits!!**
  - (1) The fruit bearing comes naturally from this tree because it is **planted by the rivers of waters**. Beloved, it is abiding in a life-source.
  - (2) Its productivity is enhanced by the strong root system which delivers fresh water from the river, thus producing an abundance of fruits. *(From Page 20).*
- (c) **The Fruit of the Believer (Briefly Presented)**
  - (1) Conditions for Bearing Fruits (Base on John 15:1-8).
    - Cleansing (John 15:2, 3)
    - Abiding (John 15:5)
    - Obedience (John 15:10, 12)
  - (2) What it means to bear fruit?
    - To bear converts (Rom. 1:13-14).
    - To bear righteousness (holiness) (Rom. 6:21-23; Phil. 1:11).
    - To bear Christian Character or The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) *(From Pages 20 & 21).*

3. Beloved, too many believers ignore the importance of **Fruit Bearing!** Bearing **much fruit** glorifies the Father and demonstrates discipleship. **Read John 15:1-8.** Note a quote from Life Application Study Bible:

*"Are you satisfied with being unfruitful, or do you, like a well-watered tree, have strength for times of crises and even some to share as you bear fruit for the LORD."*

4. A closing quote from Life in the Spirit Study Bible
- "Those who trust centers in themselves and in human resources are destined for disappointment, spiritual poverty and ultimate loss. On the contrary, those who fully trust in the LORD will be blessed and ultimately rewarded with a godly inheritance. They will not be afraid or anxious in any life's circumstances because their root go down deep into God."*

*I do recommend that you review Lessons on Psalm 1 Parts A and B. **Oh Beloved, Be Blessed!!***

**“I Am Blessed”** by New Birth *(A Partial Quote)*

I can still see the morning breaks  
A new horizon's born I call that a blessing  
I can still hear the singing of the birds and the buzzing of bees  
I call that a blessing

Someone out there who longs to hear  
Someone out there wishing to see  
But look at me, I'm as healthy as can be  
That's when I start counting  
And I found that I have been

I am blessed, so much more than blessed  
I am blessed, so much more than blessed  
(But God keep on giving) Each day  
(God keep on giving) My way  
I've found that I have been more than blessed

I have e roof above me and a comfort place to sleep  
I call that a blessing  
I have food on my table and shoe on my feet  
I call that a blessing

### **Website Update**

We have added Psalm 7, Parts A and B along with the answers for the review questions. Psalm 9 is currently in process and will be added sometime between late February to early March. I am urging you to access these lessons and share them with others. Like previous series, The Psalms (Selected Psalms) are rich and inspiring, especially as we explore the depth of what these psalms really teach. In preparing these lessons, I have personally been blessed and enriched in my understanding of the historical setting, the practical application and other factors relating to these psalms and pray the same for everyone who receives these lessons.

I must once more emphasize the fact that this website remains free of any financial obligations to those who use these lessons and it is strictly to the glory of God, the blessing of the saints who continue serving God and that it will also reach the unsaved or those who have drifted from the faith or the weak struggling believer.

Accessing the website is functioning effectively through computers, laptops, and tablets; it works well with phones as well with the exception that for phones you will need to use either Firefox or Internet Explorer for your browser; I have used Firefox on my phone without any

problem. With the help of God, we are moving forward and will always be dependent on His enabling as this is by His grace and to His glory. Your continued prayers are highly appreciated!

Please continue to stay safe and well and follow proper guidelines as we continue to see adverse effects of these various pandemic diseases. Our hearts go out to families that have experienced loss or where family members have been adversely affected. Beloved, God continue to watch over you and your entire family, irrespective where they live. God is not only compassionate and caring but He is able and we commit our all in His hands!! (2 Tim. 1:12).

You are dearly loved and appreciated. God richly bless you!!

Yours-in-Christ

Bishop K. Wright

Cell: 609-571-8468

Email: [kingsleywright@yahoo.com](mailto:kingsleywright@yahoo.com)

Website: [livingwaterstudies.com](http://livingwaterstudies.com)