

BLESSED IS THE MAN

Psalm 1.1-6

Psalm 1 at first glance may appear simplistic and naïve to modern readers. It seems to lump humanity into two distinct classes whose fates can easily be distinguished. However, this would be an unfair conclusion. The psalms do not provide a full and accurate report of current circumstances. A psalm is instruction that often seeks to correct improper attitudes and will offer an alternative perspective. It does not **describe** mere observable reality; instead, it teaches God's **prescribed** ordering of life. It does this by presenting us with two character profiles: the righteous man and the wicked man. In so doing, we are challenged to ask ourselves which path we follow.

This is what the LORD says:

*“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”* Jeremiah 6.16

Genesis 18.16-19; Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 2.12-22

The Character and Behavior of the Blessed One, 1.1-3.

¹ *Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.*

¹ Kings 10.6-9; Psalm 32.1-2; 40.4; 106.3; Matthew 5.1-12

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Joshua 1.8; Psalm 19; 119; Deuteronomy 6.4-9; Proverbs 3.1-6

³ *He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.*

Jeremiah 17.5-8

The Absence of Blessing for the Wicked, 1.4-5.

⁴ *Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.*
⁵ *Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

The Parting of the Ways, 1.6.

⁶ *For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Matthew 5-7