

Valparaiso University

ValpoScholar

---

Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms

University Archives & Special Collections

---

2001

## Psalm 144: Of David

Walter E. Keller

*Valparaiso University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms>

---

### Recommended Citation

Keller, Walter E., "Psalm 144: Of David" (2001). *Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms*. 146.  
<https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms/146>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at [scholar@valpo.edu](mailto:scholar@valpo.edu).

# **Psalm 144**

**Of David**

(NRSV)

- 1 Blessed be the LORD, my rock,  
who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;**
- 2 my rock<sup>(a)</sup> and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliverer,  
my shield, in whom I take refuge,  
who subdues the people<sup>(b)</sup> under me.**
- 3 O LORD, what are human beings that you regard them,  
or mortals that you think of them?**
- 4 They are like a breath;  
their days are like a passing shadow.**
- 5 Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down;  
touch the mountains so that they smoke.**
- 6 Make the lightning flash and scatter them;  
send out your arrows and rout them.**
- 7 Stretch out your hand from on high;  
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters,  
from the hand of aliens,**
- 8 whose mouths speak lies,  
and whose right hands are false.**
- 9 I will sing a new song to you, O God;  
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,**
- 10 the one who gives victory to kings,  
who rescues his servant David.**
- 11 Rescue me from the cruel sword,  
and deliver me from the hand of aliens,  
whose mouths speak lies,  
and whose right hands are false.**
- 12 May our sons in their youth  
be like plants full grown,  
our daughters like corner pillars,  
cut for the building of a palace.**
- 13 May our barns be filled,  
with produce of every kind;  
may our sheep increase by thousands,  
by tens of thousands in our fields,**
- 14 and may our cattle be heavy with young.  
May there be no breach in the walls,<sup>(c)</sup> no exile,  
and no cry of distress in our streets.**
- 15 Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;  
happy are the people whose God is the LORD.**

**Footnotes:**

- a. (v.2) With 18.2 and 2 Sam 22.2: Heb *my steadfast love*
- b. (v.2) Heb Mss Syr Aquila Jerome: MT *my people*
- c. (v.14) Heb lacks *in the walls*

**Psalm 144** consists of two sections in terms of subject matter and literary style. It seems like it may originally have been two separate and independent compositions, but this is not necessarily the case. The first section (verses 1-11) has to do with the king and his enemies, while the concluding set of verses (verses 12-15) is a prayer for national prosperity. This Psalm is thus unified by the theme of salvation of the king and of his people. We can also note that verses 1-11 read like a string of quotations from other Psalms. Note for example the close similarity in thought and words of verse 2 and Psalm 18:2, or verse 3 with Psalm 8:4.

**Prayer to accompany Psalm 144:**

Lord God of strength, you gave your Son victory over death. Direct your Church's fight against the evil in the world; clothe us with the weapons of light; and unite us under the banner of love, that after the battle of earthly life we may rejoice in your presence now and forever. Amen.