

"THE BELIEVER'S HAPPINESS"**Introduction**

1. Moses, about to die, blesses the 12 tribes.
2. Jacob had done so (Gen 49)
3. Each tribe is separately blessed – but now Moses describes them all together.

DOCTRINE: those in this present age who believe in the Lord Jesus are similarly blessed.

1. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE A HAPPY PEOPLE

- 1) "Happy art thou!" We remind ourselves of this:
 - (i) Satan would tell us otherwise many a time;
 - (ii) the world does not believe it or suppose it.

APPLICATION: Scores, hundreds of texts, tells us so. Believe it.
- 2) Examples: Ps. 1; Ps. 32; Ps. 89; the Beatitudes.
- 3) We are uniquely happy and blessed.: "Who is like unto thee? "Incomparably blessed !" Compare:
 - (i) Kings and Queens: **Illustration**: Louis XIV; Philip of Macedon
 - (ii) Learned Atheists: **Illustration**: Chay Blyth; Carl Jung
 - (iii) Teenagers: **Illustration**: 80% used a Ouija-board
 - (iv) Modern Poets: **Illustration**: Matthew Arnold

APPLICATION: No one on earth is so blessed as the true Christian!

2. OUR HAPPINESS IS TO HAVE GOD ALWAYS WITH US

- 1) God is always looking after His dear people – see v.26 (no emergency service to compare with this!); v.27: "everlasting arms" (!); v.28 "dwell in safety alone"!

- 2) Nothing is missing from our happiness:
 - (i) God ever attentive to our needs: v.26
ILLUSTRATION: the lost child; the glasses
 - (ii) "Thy refuge" – our "strong tower" – "a very present help in time of need"
ILLUSTRATION: Prayer Meeting in Switzerland
 - (iii) "saved by the Lord": v.29
APPLICATION: Do we appreciate the cost of our salvation?
- 3) O count again the cost of our salvation:
 - (i) God must become man
 - (ii) thirty-three years of toil and temptation
 - (iii) the Cross of Calvary – see Quote from "The Life of Christ" by Dean F. W. Farrar
APPLICATION: O how God must have loved His people! "Happy art thou, O Israel"!

3. THE LORD'S PEOPLE WILL OVERCOME ALL THEIR ENEMIES

- 1) The last words of Moses leave nothing out. A fear we might have is: "Our enemies".
- 2) So not only do we have God's comforting presence, but also the end of all our enemies.
- 3) See v.27 and v.29:
 - (i) a ref. to Israel's enemies in the land of Canaan;
 - (ii) and to ours as Christians: See Rev. 20:10
APPLICATION: O let us then live for God's glory and let us be joyful in our King! "Happy art thou, O Israel".

PSALM

46: 1 – 6

47: 1 – 8

121: 1 – 8