

Blest be the Lord

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 144*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR
or Playnsong

BASSVS

Hereford Tune

Blessed be the Lord my strength that doth in - struct my hands to fight:

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3

S. The Lord that doth my fin - gers frame to bat - tle by his might.

A. The Lord that doth my fin - gers frame to bat - tle by his might.

T. The Lord that doth my fin - gers frame to bat - tle by his might.

B. The Lord that doth my fin - gers frame to bat - tle by his might.

2. He is my goodness, fort and tower,
deliverer and shield,
In him I trust, my people he
subdues to me to yield.

3. O Lord what thing is man that he
thou hold'st so high in price?
Or son of man that upon him,
thou thinkest in this wise?

4. Man is but like to vanity,
so pass his days to end:

5. As fleeting shade, bow down O Lord
the heavens and descend.

6. The mountains touch and they shall smoke
cast forth thy lightening flame
And scatter them, thine arrows shoot,
consume them with the same.

7. Send down thy hand even from above
O Lord deliver me:
Take me from waters great, from hand
of strangers make me free.

8. Whose subtle mouth of vanity,
and fondness doth entreat:
And their right hand, is a right hand,
of falsehood and deceit.

9. A new song I will sing O God,
and singing will I be:
On Viol and on Instrument,
ten stringed unto thee.

10. Even he it is that only gives
deliverance to Kings:
Unto his servant David help,
from hurtful sword he brings.

11. From strangers' hand me save and shield,
whose mouths talk vanity:
And their right hand, is a right hand
of guile and subtlety.

12. That our sons may be as the plants,
whom growing youth doth rear:
Our daughters as carv'd corner-stones,
like to a palace fair.

13. Our garners full and plenty may,
with sundry sorts be found:
Our sheep bring thousands in our streets
ten thousands may abound.

14. Our Oxen be to labor strong,
that none do us invade:
There be no goings out, no cry
within our streets be made:
The people blessed are that with
such blessings are so stor'd:
Yea, blessed all the people are
whose God is God the Lord.

Critical notes:

this setting is similar to the one of Psalms 11 & 49;

Text somewhat modernised.