

Part 7 – The Fairness of God

In part 6 we learned that deliverance from our Heavenly Father (YHVH) comes when He delights in us. And David summed this up beautifully in verse 21 when he said he *kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God*. This means David guarded and protected God's Word (His ways) in his heart and mind as one would guard and protect a precious vineyard or a sheep fold. Since David had been a shepherd in his younger years, he well understood the importance of this. And so, the only way we can delight him is to not wickedly depart from Him (in our heart, mind, words or actions). And the only way we can do that is to put His Words in our heart and mind and carefully (with vigor) protect and guard them so that no one is able to 'shake' our faith in Jesus Christ (God's Word) nor coerce (deceive) us into willingly disobeying Him. While we all fall short and sin at times, those who delight in God will repent when they see their sins (and they will try to see their sins) and strive hard to change them, *from the heart*. And that's a far contrast with those who wickedly depart from God because they are habitual sinners who don't care about obeying Him. We'll now continue on with this great Psalm to see what else David said about God after He delivered him from all his enemies...

Psalm 18

22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

Something that many Christians don't understand is that God's Law has different parts to it. And this is only natural because the Ten Commandments teach us how we are to behave as individuals while the statutes are laws that govern national administration and judgments are laws governing how the courts in a nation are to behave. These parts of God's Laws are still *very* much in effect, as Jesus clearly told us in Mth 5:17-20. So, the only part of the law that's been changed (because it was fulfilled by the blood of Jesus Christ) is the ordinances which were *added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made* (Gal 3:19). This means the blood sacrifices (and all other rituals of the Levitical priesthood) were done away with simply because Jesus fulfilled them in His life, death and resurrection. Therefore, we're not to offer any blood sacrifices (ordinances) anymore because ***Jesus fulfilled them***. This includes circumcising one's male children too. While it's still ok to do (for health reasons) it shouldn't be done for *religious* purposes. Thus, the sacrifices we are now to make to God are *spiritual* (1 Peter 2:4-6, Ps 141:2). As such, the purpose of physical circumcision has *always been to point to* how God *really* wants us to circumcise *our heart and mind* from evil thoughts, desires and intentions and emotions, as Scriptures such as Deut 10:16; Jer 4:4; 1 Cor 7:19; Gal 5:6, 6:15; Phil 3:3; Col 2:11 and 3:11 tells us. And other Scriptures also tell us that things such as *thanksgiving* (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), *praise* (Ps 54:6, Ps 141:2, Jer 17:26, 33:1), *joy* (Ps 27:6) *righteousness* (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15), *controlling your body* (Rom 12:1-3) *including your mouth* (Ps 119:108) are other forms of spiritual 'sacrifices' that God really wants.

The Lord (YHVH) truly never got pleasure from the blood sacrifices. It has always been the sincere intent of the heart to obey God and be truly repentant for one's sins (or thankful as some

of the offerings were ‘thank offerings’) that God really enjoyed because it shows they loved Him, were truly sorry for their sins and were obeying Him the best they could. The blood Sacrifices also taught people how the true Messiah would come and shed His blood for us; so, the offeror was also taught the ‘Gospel of Jesus Christ’ through the ‘imagery’ (or type, like an analogy of sorts) that the blood sacrifices provided. In Gal 3:24 Paul says *the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*. So, the blood sacrifices pointed to (explains what Jesus would do for us) the great Sacrifice the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would make for us. And they (the blood sacrifices) also teach us how to make a good repentance because: just as the animal had to be killed, their inward parts cleaned with water and then burnt on the fire... so too do we have to kill (subdue, control) our ‘carnal mind’ (our heart – the part of us that wants to sin and ‘act like an animal’), wash our ‘inward parts’ (heart and mind) with the Living Water of God’s Word and allow the Holy Spirit to burn out our sin by allowing Him to lead us to see our sins, repent for them and learning to obey God’s with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the best we can.

So then, when David says here that God’s judgments (laws in the courts) were before him, it means that *he used God’s laws* pertaining to how to judge court cases are to be judged (i.e. without partiality) in all the cases that were brought before him. As king of Israel, David was the highest person a court case could go to (aside from taking the case to God in prayer). Therefore, it was *very* important the king used God’s laws to judge with. And He did so, as 1 Chron 18:14 tells us: *David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people*. Further, David also says he didn’t ‘put away’ God’s ‘statutes’ (which are laws governing the national administration) away from him. So, in every aspect of his life (personally and in the kingdom over which he governed) David worked to implement justice and freedom for all (even the poor and weak in society). And while there were a few times David did not do rightly (such as in numbering the troops, having an affair with Bath-Sheba and then ordering her husband to the front lines so he would be killed), *David repented wholeheartedly for these sins*. As such, God forgave him and allowed him to remain king of Israel - but not without being chastised for it. That’s why God allowed a rebellion against David (his own son caused most of Israel to rebel) to go on *for a while* but, since David committed himself to God’s judgments (he was willing to be deposed if that’s what God wanted) and remained loyal to God (was sincere in his repentance) God eventually allowed David’s army to succeed in putting down all rebellions (even though David, his family and the few remaining followers of his had to flee from Jerusalem for a while).

Thus, David is further explaining in this verse why God gave him the victory over all his enemies – because, again, he kept (guarded and protected) God’s ‘ways’ (laws) and did not wickedly depart from them (i.e. he sincerely repented for the few times he did stray from them). And while David was not without fault, it’s important to realize that he did the best job out of all the kings of Israel and of Judah (the nation split after David’s grandson came to the throne, 1 Kings 11). That’s why all the kings after David were compared to his rule (1 Kings 3:3, 11:6,33, 15:3,11; 2 Kings 14:3, 16:2, 18:3, 22:2; 2 Chron 28:1, 29:2, 34:2-3) - for overall, God considered David to be a very good king (1 Kings 11:4, 6) because David did what most of the kings never did: repent when his sins were pointed out to him (2 Sam 12:13, 24:10,17; 1 Chron 21:8; Ps 41:4,

51). This is important to understand for, just as God truly forgave David for his sins (and thus looked upon his reign as though it were ‘perfect’, because David trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ to cover his sins) so too does God consider us ‘perfect’ (without sin) once we repent sincerely and strive to do what’s right, as David did. Therefore, we should not get on any guilt trip for sins we’ve repented for; they are totally gone in God’s ‘books’ and to feel bad for them afterwards *is to doubt His ability to forgive us* – thus, it also doubts the power of Jesus’ blood to forgive our sins... and that’s something that will anger our Heavenly Father! As Heb 9:9-14 explains, the blood of animals could not clean anyone’s guilty conscience but the blood of Christ can. Why? Because when we believe that Jesus Christ was perfect and that HE shed His righteous blood for our sins, the Holy Spirit will come to dwell within us and *that* is what removes the guilt from our heart – IF we truly believe Jesus’ blood can ‘cover’ (pay and blot out) our sins. So, having guilt for past sins you’ve repented of shows a *lack of faith* in Jesus Christ and *that is sin in itself*. As Paul said in Rom 14:23: *whatsoever is not of faith is sin*. We must have faith in the blood of Jesus Christ being able to pay for our sins before we can feel that sweet peace that comes from repentance. If you struggle with guilt for past sins, study God’s Word and ask our Heavenly Father for help to increase your faith – and He will if you are sincere. Peace of mind and heart is a promise from Jesus Christ Himself (John 14:27, 16:33, 20:21).

Psalm 18

23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

The word ‘**upright**’ here has also been translated as: without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincerely (-ity), sound, without spot, undefiled, or whole. It’s the Hebrew word *tamim* (#8549), which means: **entire** (literally, figuratively or morally) and also (as noun) **integrity, truth**. It comes from the prim root *tamam* (#8552) which means: **to complete**. Consider a few places this same word used elsewhere in the Old Testament...

*1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; **walk before me, and be thou perfect**.*

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Gen 17:1-2

The reason God gave such wonderful promises to Abraham (Gen 12, 15, 17, 22) is because he walked according to God’s ways. He obeyed God when He called him out of the land of confusion (Babylon – Gen 12) and he also believed the promises God gave him (that he would have a child in his old age, that his descendants would be uncountable in number, that they would possess the land He promised Abraham, and that the Messiah would come from his descendants) which were *accounted to him as righteousness* (Gen 15:6). [Learn more in the study on: **The Unconditional Promises to Abraham** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1122>]. But God was not asking Abraham to be something he could not; for none of us walking the earth in a flesh body can live our entire life without sin – with the exception, of course, of Jesus Christ, for He indeed had no sin (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5). What God was asking of Abraham was to strive with all his heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 6:5, Prov 3:5, Mk 12:30)

to love, obey and trust God, and to repent when he fell short. This Abraham did, as David did also. And thus, if we do this too then we too will be inheritors of the promises to Abraham through the blood that Jesus Christ shed (Gal 3) ...

*9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, **thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.***

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

*13 **Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.***

14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Deut 18:9-14

Theses are informative verses because they help explain how to be ‘perfect’ (complete) with God. We must not ‘wickedly depart’ from Him by ‘whoring’ (lusting) after the abominations (idols and false gods) that the ‘heathen’ do. The Lord (YHVH) specifically outlaws any communications with evil spirits, in any form or fashion, for *that is what causes our heart to depart from God’s righteous laws* (just look at how easily Eve and Adam were fooled by Satan for one prime example). Again, being perfect in God’s eyes doesn’t mean we’ll be without sin but that *we are not rebellious to Him*. We thus are **not** habitual sinners who don’t care about sinning against Him.

*God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way **perfect**.*

2 Sam 22:33

Indeed, God Almighty (YHVH) makes our ways (the way we live our life) ‘perfect’ (complete or full); and *how* does He do this? By giving us His laws to tell us right from wrong and also by giving us His Holy Spirit to help us learn how to obey them from the heart (sincerely). As we learned a few chapters back, ***the only good ‘thing’ in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.*** That’s why, if we don’t want to receive the cursings that the wicked people get, we must put off our ‘old man’ *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and not serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6). We do this by *renewing in the spirit of your mind* (Eph 4:23) through God’s Word (Col 3:10) so we can put on the ‘new man’, *which is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). And when we do this, God considers us ‘perfect’ because our soul is ‘completed’ or ‘full’ of His Word and Holy Spirit - not full of sin like lust and pride, hate, greed, envy and so forth. It’s what’s in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) that matters to God because this is what impacts our words and actions. If we don’t clean our heart and mind we will eventually sin outwardly, which is what James points out in the second chapter of his letter to the twelve tribes ‘scattered abroad’ [to study the book of James, click here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_James].

*The righteousness of the **perfect** shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.*

Prov 11:5

The only ‘righteousness’ in those who are counted as ‘perfect’ before God’s eyes is the Word of God and Holy Spirit *within us*. And that’s because we’ve accepted the blood that His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, shed for us and are working to be ‘full’ of His Word and Holy Spirit by striving to put off the ‘old man’ (the carnal mind, the part of us that wants to sin, Rom 8) and put on the new man which *is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24).

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Ps 119:1

The word ‘undefiled’ here is the same word translated in Ps 18:23 as ‘upright’ and ‘perfect’ in other Scriptures. God only blesses those who follow His Laws (sincerely, from the heart), which are found in His Word, the Bible. This is what Abraham did and what David did. They are truly good examples for us to follow, as are many others (1 Cor 10:11, Heb 11). So, when David said here in verse 23 that: *I was also upright before him, and I **kept** myself from mine iniquity* – he was not calming that he never sinned. He was not, therefore, being a self-righteous hypocrite. He was simply stating that he never strayed from God’s laws *as a lifestyle*. When his sins were brought to his attention, he repented for them sincerely and had faith in God’s ability to forgive him because he *truly* believed in the promised Messiah that would come to pay for his sins (and all of God’s children’s sins as well). This is why he said that he ‘kept’ himself from iniquity. The word ‘**iniquity**’ here is ‘avon (#5771), which means: **perversity**, i.e. (moral) **evil** and comes from a prim root that means *to crook* (‘avah #5753). And the word ‘**kept**’ should be familiar to you by now. It’s the prim root *shamar* (#8104) that means: **to hedge about** (*as with thorns*), i.e. **guard; generally, to protect, attend to, etc.** It’s the same word as he used in verse 21 when saying that he ‘kept’ the ways of the Lord (YHVH). So, David worked hard to keep his heart and mind guarded and protected against doing iniquity (perverse things which are contrary to God’s Word, which are evil). Truly, David really tried to do what was right in his life and God recognized this. That’s why (over and over again) God gave David the victory over his enemies (who were also God’s enemies because David was His servant) and forgave David when he repented for his sins. And again, this is what He’ll do for us too if we don’t ‘wickedly depart’ from His Word and faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 18

24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

David continues to explain why God blessed him and gave him the victory over all his enemies. To ‘recompense’ is a prim root that means **to turn back** (hence, away), **to retreat** or, **again** (shuwb #7725). In other words, God *continued* to bless David because of his *continuous* loyalty

to Him. Instead of hardening his heart when God sent prophets to point out his sins (as so many of his descendants did), David repented wholeheartedly and strove harder to obey Him. That's why David could say he had 'clean hands' even after he had committed adultery with Bath-Sheba and essentially had her husband murdered. When God forgives us for a sin it is totally blotted out of His records (Isa 44:23, Acts 3:19) which means - to Him, *it's as if our past sins never happened*. As another Psalms explains...

*8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
12 **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.***
Ps 103:8-12

Therefore, as Paul said...

*35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.**
36 **For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.**
37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
38 Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.***
Heb 10:35-39

Psalm 18

*25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;
26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.*

These too are important verses to understand, and remember, for they explain the nature of our Heavenly Father. As Ps 145:17 says: *The LORD (YHWH) is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*. Dan 9:14 also tells us that *the LORD (YHWH) our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth* and Deut 32:4 declares: *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he*. Psalms 119 also professes that: *Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful* (vs 137-138) and *Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth* (142) as well as *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever* (vs 160). And because our Heavenly Father (YHWH) is totally righteous (without sin), He therefore treats us according to His divine Law *without partiality* (i.e. without 'respect of persons') as His Law outlines in Deut

1:15-17. Scriptures such as Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, John 12:46-48 and Col 3:24-25 testify to this too, which is why Jesus said...

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

*48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.***

John 12:46-48

The purpose of Jesus' First Advent was to shed His blood for the sins of mankind (and defeat Satan's power to deceive us, Heb 2:14) - not to judge... but His Second Advent will be time for judgment, *for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad* (2 Cor 5:10). Yet, even when He does return to judge the world, Jesus points out that it won't be with partiality. The Word of God (His Laws) will be the standard form which Jesus judges from. This means Jesus Christ won't judge 'after the flesh' (which means with a carnal mind) but He'll judge righteously (which means, according to God's laws and not His personal feelings). Jesus doesn't let anyone coerce Him to pervert judgment for them, as He explained...

15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.
John 8:15-16

Verse 16 would be better stated *when* He judges, His judgment is *always* true for He judges the way His Father does – righteously – without partiality. All too often in this world we see judges pervert judgment for bribes or because they are threatened or blackmailed. But there is none of that with God Almighty or His Son, Jesus Christ. After all, God owns everything so there's nothing anyone in the world can bribe Him with because it's all His anyways. And further, there is nothing to coerce or blackmail Him with because He is totally without sin. So, His judgments are *always* just. Therefore, He also doesn't judge according to appearance (John 7:21-24) but according to facts. And this He can do with perfection because He alone knows the hearts of all His children (1 Kings 8:39). This then is why David said He'll 'shew' Himself merciful with those who are merciful and the same with upright, the pure and the forward. This simply means that ***God's conduct towards His children is a reflection of our relationship with Him.*** In other words: ***God reacts towards you depending on how you treat Him, and His children*** (Mth 25:31-46). Again, God is totally fair and shows no partiality to any of His children. We're all judged by His Laws. Now, it's also important to understand the meaning of some of these words because some of the words translated as the same word in English are *not* always the same in the Hebrew. Check it out...

- The first time ‘merciful’ is used in verse 25 is *chacyd* (#2623), which means: **kind**, i.e. (religiously) **pious** (a saint).
- But the second time ‘merciful’ is used in verse 25 it is the prim root *chacad* (#2616), which means: *perhaps to bow* (the neck only [compare OT:2603] **in courtesy to an equal**), i.e. **to be kind**; also (by euphem. [compare 1 OT:88], but rarely) *to reprove*.
- Both times the word ‘upright’ is used in verse 25 are *tamiym* (#8549), which means: **entire** (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) **integrity, truth**. It’s the same word often translated a ‘perfect’, or ‘complete’ – we learned of this earlier when studying verse 23, how David was ‘upright’ before God.
- Both times the word ‘pure’ is used in verse 26 are *barar* (#1305) which is a primitive root that means: **to clarify** (i.e. *brighten*), **examine, select**.
- The first time ‘froward’ is used in verse 26 is *iqqesh* (#6141), which means: **distorted**; hence, **false**. And it comes from the prim root *aqash* (#6140), which means: **to knot or distort**; figuratively, **to pervert** (act or declare perverse).
- The second time ‘froward’ is used in verse 26 is *pathal* (#6617), which is a primitive root that means: **to twine**, i.e. (literally) **to struggle** or (figuratively) **be (morally) tortuous**.

These definitions are important because the English makes it sound as if God acts perversely towards those who are perverted but in reality, it is saying that He will fight (punish) them *because* they are wicked. Meanwhile, He will be merciful (kind in not giving us what we deserve by forgiving our sins because we repent sincerely for them) and pure (by clarifying the Scriptures to us through His Holy Spirit) and upright because He so graciously gives us His Word of truth.

Psalm 18

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

So now, David explains what he meant by the last verses. Indeed, our Heavenly Father saves those who love Him when they are afflicted by the wicked. As Ps 103:6 says: *The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed*. And, as we’ve already learned in Ps 9:9: *The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble* and again in Ps 10:17-18: *LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress*. Our Heavenly Father really hates it when His children are treated badly. As such, He will indeed bring down the high looks of the proud...

And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Isa 13:11

*31 Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will [judge] **visit thee**.*

*32 And **the most proud shall stumble and fall**, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.*

Jer 50:31-32

*1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and **all the proud**, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

*2 **But unto you that fear my name** shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. [i.e. we'll be as happy to inherit the world when Jesus returns as a calf is so very happy to be let out onto the grass for the first time]*

*3 And **ye shall tread down the wicked**; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet **in the day that I shall do this**, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Mal 4:1-3

*4 And **he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people**: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

6 Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

7 Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots:

8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

9 And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore forgive them not.

10 Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

*11 **The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.***

*12 **For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:***

13 And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan,

14 And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up,

15 And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall,

16 And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

*17 And **the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low**: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. [vs 11 & here: stated twice for emphasis]*

18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

*20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;
21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.
22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?*
Isa 2:4-22

And the reason God will bring down all the ‘proud looks’ and ‘haughtiness’ of mankind is because it causes them to do wickedly and harm His children and *that is one of the things He hates...*

*16 These six things **doth the LORD hate**: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
17 A **proud look**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*
Prov 6:16-19

Indeed, there are six things that God Almighty (YHVH) absolutely hates and a ‘proud look’ is first on the list. And the ‘seventh’ (those who sow discord among the brethren – the Body of Christ) are an absolute abomination to Him (He hates the most). We learned about God’s hatred for the wicked a few chapters back...

*5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence **his soul hateth**.
6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.*
Ps 11:5-6

And the prophets also declare that God hates wickedness...

*And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for **all these are things that I hate**, saith the LORD.*
Zech 8:17

But, as we learned back in Psalms 11, God’s ‘hatred’ for the wicked is not unjust; it is always righteous. He does not let it pervert His judgments nor cause His heart to become corrupt. Thus, He wants us also to learn how to hate evil and love good (in the righteous way) also...

*14 **Seek good, and not evil**, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.
15 **Hate the evil, and love the good**, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*
Amos 5:14-15

However, as Ps 37 explains...

*1 **Fret not** thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
8 **Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.**
9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.*
Ps 37:1-9

The very first verse in this Psalm constitutes a direct instruction from our Heavenly Father, which is followed in the next verse by a promise. We are not to "fret" over the work of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. The word "fret" (#7503) means to 'slacken', meaning *we must not burn with anger or displeasure to the point we become unfastened from God's Word.* And the word "envious" (#7065), in this context, refers to ***a sinister form of zeal in which, essentially, the flesh takes over your common sense as well as your faith in God, causing you to act zealously, but misguidedly, against evildoers.*** The evildoers we are referring to here, of course, are the children of Cain and their little helpers, as well as the ultimate evildoer of them all, our old adversary the Devil (Satan). We are not to allow anger at the success of evildoers to consume us. We are not to get all worked up over their apparent progress in evil-doing, because our heavenly Father is in control, and he has the situation well under control.

You could look at past and current administrations of government as an example. Many get all 'hot under the collar' over their actions, and apparent success in getting socialistic (satanic) programs implemented. Some people are actually in deep emotional anguish over it. Our heavenly Father is very clear on the matter: "Fret not," and *don't let it lead you into a misguided sense of zeal that could get you into trouble.* Speak your mind, of course. After all, this is still America. And you can still let your voice be heard to your elected representatives and in the voting booth. Utilize your rights under civil law to exercise your viewpoint. But *don't let the rabble-rousers get you all carried away. **Maintain control of your emotions. Maintain control of your faith in your heavenly Father, and in His ability to rule. He knows exactly what He is doing.*** No man rules over His People without His permission. Never forget that.

The bottom line is that "fretting" (being consumed in anger) over the success of the enemy *is an act of unfaith.* It says to God, "I'm concerned you're not handling this as effectively as you should be." And that, my friend, is a great big "No, no." So, stay calm. Lay your cares on your Heavenly Father (Phil 4:6-7), rather than getting all 'lathered up' about them. And use prayer and study to stay in touch with Him every day. His Word leads, guides and directs us. **Trust it.** And be sure to *follow it* for indeed (in due time) Jesus Christ will return and save all the afflicted people (who

remain loyal to Him) and bring down all ‘high looks’ in the process. It’s a promise of God and you can count on it...

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

*5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for **God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.***

*6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:***

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

*8 **Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

*9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith,** knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

*10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.***

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:2-11

We'll pick this up in part 8...

AMEN.