

Part 1 – The Proud and Covetous

In chapter nine, part 1, we learned how we should praise God Almighty (YHVVH) with our *whole* heart; not having any ulterior motives or selfishness in our worshiping Him. We also learned the importance of showing forth all His marvelous works, which is truly sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with discernment from the Holy Spirit. We also began to learn of the reasons we have to be glad in, rejoice in and sing praise to God's Holy Name (YHVVH), for He truly is the Most High God – the *only* Supreme and Sovereign God who created heaven, earth and all that is therein. And, as such, He 'turns back' (stops) our enemies (all evil) when we faithfully serve and love Him, and He *always* 'maintains' our 'right and cause' because we are *His* servants. The wicked are truly poking God (and Jesus Christ) in the pupil (apple) of His eye when they persecuted the Body of Christ, and He does not put up with that. He therefore rebukes the heathen in various ways, even still today, and will eventually destroy (blot them out of existence) all incorrigible rebels after the end of the Millennium. But, until that time, He still executes vengeance for those who serve Him; *and* for His mighty name, which is blasphemed every day by the wicked. So, we should remember that there will indeed come a great day of reckoning for those wicked ones (especially the instigator of the rebellion, who is Satan – the antichrist) when Jesus returns to execute the 'day of vengeance' when He pours out the 'cup of wrath' upon all unrepentant sinners. That's also what gives us reason to be glad in, rejoice in and sing praise to God's Holy Name (YHVVH).

In part 2 we learned how the 'destructions' of the enemy (even the 'desolation' of the antichrist) will be put to an end when the King of kings (Jesus Christ) returns to subdue all things in heaven and earth. We learned too that God has given judgment for all things into the hands of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. And, all the 'wicked devices' of the wicked will *instantly* be 'brought down' when Jesus returns for, He will judge the world in righteousness and minister judgment to the people in uprightness. This, of course, means He will use God's Word as the standard to judge by. Neither God, nor His Son, Jesus, are 'respecters of persons', which means they don't allow *anyone* to coerce them into perverting justice (as mankind so often does). So, Jesus will reign forever with righteousness, which will cause many a wicked to turn away from their wickedness and accept Him as their King. It will also cause the righteous to flourish and bring in a time of great prosperity. So, by the time the Millennium ends, all those who still refuse Jesus Christ as their King (incorrigible criminals such as Satan) will all be 'blotted out' of the book of life and the very essence of their soul will be burned up (consumed like fat in a fire, Ps 37) in the lake of fire. These facts give us much to rejoice about **if** we remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

In part 3 we learned that, when we trust and obey our Heavenly Father for, He truly is a refuge (safe space spiritually) for us when we're oppressed *and* helps us through *all* times of trouble (even the *great* time of trouble, the 'tribulation of antichrist' which is soon to come). And those who truly trust in God Almighty (YHVVH) do so because they know Him intimately. And they know Him (His holy character) because they put His Words in their heart, and mind, and allow His Holy Spirit into their soul. This gives us great comfort in our heart and mind, as well as the knowledge and determination we need to 'take dominion' over our own life *and* to take the

Gospel of Jesus Christ to the areas of influence we have in the world – no matter the persecutions that come with it. We also learned how to endure ‘hard times’ by *remembering to be thankful to Him* and ‘count’ the blessings He gives us (which are many to those who serve Him). And we are assured, when we remain faithful servants to Him, He will never, ever forsake us. This is why we should always praise His holy name and remember that His Son, Jesus Christ, will rule from Zion forever, once He returns. So, we know that the wicked will not *forever* have control over heaven or earth, which is why it behooves us to ‘write’ His Words into our heart and mind (which is what cleanses our soul, John 15:3) and do our part to help bring others to the *true* Jesus Christ.

In part 4 we learned that God Almighty (YHVH) remembers all of the atrocities that go on in the world, *especially* when they are done to those who love and remain faithful to Him. He keeps perfect records of all people’s deeds, words and even their thoughts and desires in His ‘books’... that is unless you repent for your sins in the name (and faith) of Jesus Christ. Then your record is wiped clean. But He just never forgets when His beloved children cry out to Him when they are persecuted and oppressed. And so, when we ask for God’s help, He’s always there to help us (Heb 13:5) and He *will* deliver us from the ‘gates of death’ which are the lies and deception that Satan (and his followers) spew out at us continually. Sadly, this is often done through the ‘houses of worship’ that claim to represent Him, even Christian Churches. And, so it behooves us to study God’s Word ourself and *always* check out what others teach and say, so we are not deceived. After all, we will not be able to praise Jesus Christ for our salvation from the wicked in the ‘gates of Zion’ when He returns if we are found worshipping the *false* Christ (Satan) when the *true* Jesus Christ returns!

In part 5 we learned how the wicked will be taken in their own snares. The wicked of this earth will be convicted, and die, *by their own sword*, - which is to say, *by the weapons of their own devising*, including the lies and deception and pronouncements coming out of their mouths which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). This is why, over and over, God calls us to come out of spiritual deception and believe in His Word and His Son, Jesus Christ - so we can be forgiven our sins, become part of the Body of Christ and produce spiritual fruit for Him. He truly does not want to pour out His wrath upon all His children (as Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane showed) but He will do so to the wicked, because it is a righteous thing for God to punish the wicked. But the wicked don’t understand this because they really believe they can get away with the evils they do (2 Thes 2:10-12). And this will indeed be their great downfall. For *there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad* (Mark 4:22).

In part 6 we learned, again, that the wicked will be snared by the work of their own hands. And this is because of God’s righteous judgments. And we have many examples in His Word of what His righteous judgments have been (such as the Exodus) as well as what they will be (the book of Revelations). Truly, the Word of God is full of Scriptures documenting what His mighty works and judgments *have been* and what they *will be*. We also learned the very important lesson that,

those who are wicked *will* be put in ‘hell’, along with *all* nations that forget the one and only true God Almighty (YHVH). All the wicked will be gathered and put into prisons (even Satan) when Jesus Christ returns. And all the ‘workers of iniquity’ will also be grieved because they didn’t make the first resurrection and must prove, by their works, they are not incorrigible criminals by the end of the Millennium. Meanwhile, those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ (the ‘elect’) will also be gathered, but not to ‘rapture away’. Rather, so Jesus Christ can give them eternal life because they will reign with Him (*on earth*) for the Millennium (and forever more in the eternity). Thus, those who are ‘needy’ and ‘poor’ from persecutions in this life, will *not* be forgotten and their ‘expectations’ (hope and faith) in Jesus Christ will *not* perish. They *will be* rewarded for their faithfulness when Jesus returns and truly, they are even rewarded now. Those who love God and faithfully serve Him have something the wicked and ‘workers of iniquity’ don’t have: peace of mind that God’s Holy Spirit (and Word) gives us as we study His Word each day and remain committed to serving Jesus Christ.

In part 7 we saw David ask God to ‘arise’ so that man (the wicked ones) would not prevail; he also asked God to judge the heathen (the wicked ones and nations) and to ‘put them in fear’ so they know they are not ‘gods’ but only ‘men’ – we’re all simply God’s children – even Satan himself. There is only one true God Almighty who made heaven, earth and all that is therein. Therefore, all the rest of us are subservient to Him and Him alone – *we owe our very existence to Him*. And, Jesus Christ began this process when He rose from the dead, defeating death itself, even Satan and his rebellion (Heb 2:14). But Jesus will also finish this process of ‘rising up’ when He returns to earth to take over. At that time, He will indeed put all ‘men’ in fear for He’ll return ‘with a vengeance’ and even the earth itself will quake at His return. He will also destroy ‘the city’ (and Temple) in Jerusalem at His return to totally cleanse the area for His righteous rule during the Millennium. And the earth will also be cleansed all over. Further, all of Satan’s means of deception will be totally done away with as there will be no satanic influence allowed when Jesus reigns for a thousand years on earth, with His faithful servants, so that all the earth can be taught the truth and see how wonderful living under God’s righteous laws are. And while Jesus’ return will indeed put the ‘fear of God’ into the wicked, it will be a day that will cause those who have remained loyal to Him great joy because God has finally taken vengeance upon the wicked. We must remember these precious promises, even during great times of trouble, for they are what continues to give us hope and strength in times of trouble.

So, we’ll now move on to chapter 10. As we learned before, chapter 9 and chapter 10 are linked together through an Acrostic. If you have a *Companion Bible*, you can see the Hebrew letters which are before the verses. But, as we also learned, this Acrostic is different than most others because it is irregular and broken. It is ‘irregular’ in that the letters don’t follow the Hebrew Alphabet and some verses don’t even have an acrostic letter. Thus, these two Psalms are *purposely broken*; so, the Acrostic is *purposely irregular* and *out of joint*. Further, seven letters of the Hebrew alphabet are *omitted* (throughout Psalms 9-10), which shows us that there is no spiritual perfection in the way that Satan (the antichrist) rules, for seven in Biblical Numerics means *completeness and spiritual perfection*. So, this Acrostic, again, tells us that the subject of the two Psalms is one, and that they are to be connected together. And what we can glean from

this irregular, and broken, Acrostic in these next two chapters is that: they are irregular and broken *because they signify the reign of the “antichrist”* (i.e. Satan) during the “times of trouble” (i.e. the great tribulation). Furthermore, there are also certain phrases found in *both* chapters 9 and 10, that also connect them to each other. Such as...

- “the lawless one” (Ps 9:5, 16 and 10:2,4,13,15)
- “times of trouble” (Ps 9:9 and 10:1)
- “the oppressed crushed” (Ps 9:12, 17, 18 and 10:11, 12)
- “mortal men” (Ps 9:19,20 and 10:18)
- “forget” (Ps 9:12, 17, 18 and 10:11, 12)
- “humble” (Ps 9:12, 18 and 10:12, 17)
- “not alway” (Ps 9:18, and ‘never’ in 10:10:11)
- “for ever and ever” (Ps 9:5 and 10:16)
- “arise, Yehovah” (Ps 9:19 and 10:12)

Keeping this knowledge firmly in our minds, let us move on to this next chapter. And note, there is no title, or even a subscription for this chapter; and that’s likely because the two Psalms were originally intended to be one. Here in this chapter 10, we’ll see it specifically addresses the most wicked intently there ever lived: Satan himself. It teaches us how he operates and how he thinks...

Psalm 10

1 Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

Sometimes in life, when we’re under great stress and duress, it can seem like God is not paying attention; but that does not mean He’s not. As Matt 18:10 says, those who believe in Jesus Christ and remain faithful to Him *always* have the ‘face’ of our Heavenly Father in heaven. This means *they always have His attention...* even if it does not feel like it because of the unrelenting persecutions and affliction. And God allows this to happen to His servants for several reasons. First, He does test us throughout our life to see where our heart really lies (Ps 7:9, Ps 11:4-5, Jer 17:9-10, Prov 16:2, 1 Thess 2:4). Secondly, the ‘hard times’ in life is what makes us spiritually stronger. If we never have anything to overcome, how can we be overcomers?

Psalm 10

2 The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

The word ‘wicked’ here is *rasha* (pronounced as: raw-shaw’) (#7563), which means: *morally wrong*; concretely, an (actively) *bad person*. It’s even been translated as: condemned, guilty, ungodly, wicked (man), that did wrong. It comes from *rasha* (pronounced as raw-shah’) (7561), which is a primitive root that means: *to be* (causatively, do or declare) *wrong*; by implication, to *disturb, violate*. It’s been translated as: condemn, make trouble, vex, be (commit, deal, depart, do) wicked (-ly, -ness). So, ‘the wicked’ here can even refer to *the* wicked one, who is Satan

himself. And, David points out that it is the pride of the wicked ones that causes them to persecute the ‘poor’, which (in this verse) is the Hebrew word *`aniy* (#6041), which means: *depressed, in mind or circumstances*. It’s even been translated as the afflicted, humble, lowly, needy, poor. In other words, the wicked afflict those who are unable to fight back at them. There are many people who just don’t have the financial ability (or political power nor social influences) in life to fight back against the persecutions of those who are in power. We see this done in so many ways today because the governments in the world have been so corrupted that they have weaponized the very institutions in society (economics, politics, education and even religion) that are *supposed to be* used for the good of all mankind. And they do this because they are prideful and truly, they have no compassion for others, because they are too wrapped up in their own selfish lusts and greed to care. ‘Self’ is a very important false god to many people and because of that, they end up serving the most wicked entity there ever has been: Satan himself.

But we must remember that God sees all and knows all. In the next chapter, we’ll see David pose an important question and then answer it...

2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

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.

7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Ps 11:2-7

David asks God, if the ‘foundations’ be destroyed, what can the righteous do. In other words, what can the righteous do to fight against the wickedness when all the governments (local and national) have been so corrupted that there is no legal way to get any justice on earth? While the world is not yet to this point, it is quickly getting there. And this will be the situation when Satan is on earth, ruling the entire world with His wicked ‘beast’ governmental system. But, David also gives us the answer here in Psalm 11 - God Almighty is still on His throne in heaven and He sees everything that’s going on. And He tests people to see what’s truly in their heart. How will they righteous react when they are relentlessly persecuted? Will they trust in Him to deliver them? Will they continue to do what’s right regardless of what happens to them? Or, will they ‘join in’ with the wicked to get ‘relief’ from the ‘pressures’ and ‘afflictions’ of the wicked? This is important for God to know, because Jesus Christ is building His righteous government *right now* (called the Body of Christ). And He won’t allow *anyone* who sells out their godly morals (God’s Word) to reign with Him, because they are unfit due to their corrupted hearts and filthy minds. So, the point David is making is: even when the wicked seem to get ahead, the job of those who love and serve Jesus Christ (our Heavenly Father incarnated) is to continue to do what’s right no matter what. Many Christians think that life should be a ‘bed of roses’ for them but that’s not the

truth. This life is truly a time of testing for all of God's children and we are supposed to obey God's Word, the very best we possibly can (from the heart) no matter what happens. That's our duty. Keep working to keep your heart and mind clean and connected to God by writing His Words into your heart and mind (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 10:16) and keep working on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ any way you can. *You will be rewarded for this* no matter how overwhelming the wicked's persecutions and afflictions seem. *That's what having faith in Jesus Christ is all about.*

Now, this verse also reiterates the 'common theme' we learned about in the last chapter: that the wicked will be snared by their won wicked devices and by their own lying words. Remember, it is God's promise to us that this will happen. So again, we must have faith in Him and trust He will always be there to help us through the hard times *and* trust that the wicked will not always 'get ahead' and be allowed to do wickedly. Perhaps you will die before Jesus Christ returns, but if you keep your faith in Jesus Christ and remain firmly committed to Him, you will be rewarded by being allowed to go to 'heaven', the good part of the heavenly dimension. So, all of your hard work to clean your heart and mind and serve Jesus Christ faithfully will indeed be rewarded. But, if you are still alive when Jesus Christ returns, you'll still be rewarded when He returns, so long as you remain faithful to Him. So, despite the persecutions and hardships that come with being loyal to the one true God (and His Son, Jesus Christ) there are always great rewards waiting for us (Mth 5:12). *This fact should be in the forefront of our mind always*, for it's all too easy to slip back into the fleshly way of thinking, where you only think about the 'here and now' and not 'tomorrow'. Keep your heart and mind firmly set (fixed) on God's promises and don't let anything sway your devotion to Jesus Christ, or your determination to remain faithful to Him in serving Him. As another Psalm promises...

4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5 A good man sheweth favour; and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

*10 The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: **the desire of the wicked shall perish.***

Ps 112:4-10

Indeed, when we keep our heart (desires, intentions and emotions) and mind (thought process) fixed (bonded to) God's Word, our heart *does* become established so that we don't fear anything: our soul is healthy and has peace, despite the hard times we may be experiencing. But, what of the wicked? Their evil desires *will* perish and they'll be consumed by grief. This *will* happen regardless if they die before Jesus Christ returns, or if they are still here when He returns. The bottom line is that we who love and serve Jesus Christ must have a different mentality than

others. ***We have to have the foresight to look into the future and not allow our thoughts and emotions to be caught up in the ‘here and now’.*** That is how you overcome all the negative thoughts and emotions that plague you each day. Yes, it takes internal discipline to do this but ***the negativity has to be countered with the promises of God.*** As the Psalmist of Psalms 119 declared...

50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

51 The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.

52 I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

53 Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.

54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

Ps 119:50-54

Thinking about all of God’s mighty works that the history of the Bible tells us is what *should* give us great comfort, even when the wicked and proud bastards have us in ‘great derision’. And we shouldn’t let them cause us to decline from God’s Laws (the precepts in His Word) for any reason; *that’s what Satan is after*. Satan wants all of Gods’ children to turn their backs on God Almighty - so don’t give him what he wants. Remember Job? He lost all his children, his cattle (which was wealth back in those days) and even his health, but he didn’t let that turn him against the Most High God (YHVH). Satan told God that Job would turn on God if God would lift His protective wall He had around job, but Satan was proved wrong. Job is one, of many, examples for us.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:10-11

All throughout time those who remain faithful to God Almighty (and His Son, Jesus Christ) have always been persecuted by the wicked (proud) ones. And this persecution is spearheaded by Satan himself, who is the ‘wicked ONE’. As James points out, Job was blessed double for his enduring persecutions. He not only was given more children, and wealth, but his health was restored as well. And all because he did not turn on our Heavenly Father. And we can also look at the apostles – how many persecutions did they endure? Many. Yet, God never left them, but *helped them through it all* so the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be spread and many of His children could be saved from the power of the Devil (Satan). We can, of course, also look further back at the life of Joseph, who was sold by his own brothers in to slavery. And then later cast into prison on false accusations by a slutty woman. Yet, God was still with him and caused him (years later) to rise to be second in command (next to Pharaoh only) of all of Egypt. Or how about David? Who was persecuted for many years by Saul, only later to become the King of Israel. Beloved, we simply cannot forget the examples given to us of how our Heavenly Father is truly faithful to His servants. But, ‘overcoming’ will not come without persecutions in life; it just

won't'. To reiterate: if you want to be an 'overcomer' you have to 'overcome' *something*. And all these 'hard times' not only help to keep us humble, but they also help us to grow stronger in faith and determination to do what's right, **if** we keep the promises of God in our heart and mind. As Peter tells us...

*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.***

1 Peter 5:6-10

When we humble ourselves to God, He will see that we are 'exalted' 'in due time'. And we shouldn't worry about anything because He truly cares for us – more than anyone else ever will. And we also need to stay on guard because, for sure, our adversary (Satan, the Devil) goes about seeking to deceive (through his evil spirit) all the fools he can. That's why we need to stay in God's Word and 'abide in Him' and 'He in us' (John 15:4-7) so we aren't taken by surprise, for he is deceitful. And Peter, of course, also points out that we must resist Satan's temptations and tribulations (to try to get us to join his side) by remaining steadfast in faith in Jesus Christ. And we do this, as Peter points out, by remembering that we're not the only ones (even in this day and age) who are being persecuted for following Jesus Christ. Many people, around the world, also suffer greatly for Jesus Christ. So, we're certainly not alone in that regards - although we may sometimes feel like it – *we're not*. And notice how Peter also points out that our sufferings help to make us 'perfect' (i.e. spiritually mature) and established in the faith. It even makes us stronger and 'grounded' as we lay the foundation of truth in our soul (settled is #2311). And, as Paul says in the book of Romans...

*14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.***

*15 **For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.***

*16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:***

*17 **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

*18 **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

Rom 8:14-18

So, suffering for Jesus Christ is an integral part of serving Him; yet it is all worth it in the end. Paul says our sufferings really can't be compared to the 'glory' (eternal life) that will be 'revealed' in us when Jesus Christ returns. That's what we must keep tightly bound into our heart

and mind and the fact that - God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked - for it will *always* help us through whatever ‘trials and tribulations’ that come our way. So, while the prideful wicked people do persecute those who have no means to fight back, they will indeed be taken in their wicked devices they have imagined. *It’s a promise from God* and we must *claim it* by *believing in it* and continuing to serve Jesus Christ faithfully, despite the hard times that come our way.

Psalm 10

3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.

This verse is not that great of translation. First off, the word ‘boasteth’ means more than what we think of ‘boast’ in the English. It is the Hebrew word *halal* (#1984), which is a primitive root that means: *to be clear* (orig. of sound, but usually of color); *to shine*; hence, *to make a show*, *to boast*; and thus to be (clamorously) *foolish*; *to rave*; causatively, *to celebrate*; also to *stultify*. So, in the context of this verse, the word ‘boasteth’ would have been better translated ‘celebrated’. Next, as the *Companion Bible* points out, the words *blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth* would be better translated as: ‘*the covetous man (or robber) blasphemeth, yea, abohorreth Yehovah*’. So, this verse is better translated as: ***For the wicked celebrates of his heart's desire, and the covetous man (or robber) blasphemeth, yea, abohorreth Yehovah.*** Oh how many Scriptures give us examples of this! Take, for example 1 Kings 21. In this chapter we’re told of the wicked king of Israel, Ahab, coveted the vineyard of his neighbor, Naboth. Now, Naboth was a righteous man and he would not sell his vineyard to Ahab because it was his family heritage, given to them (by God Himself) when they inherited the Promise Land. And, this really upset Ahab but (even as wicked as he was) he didn’t actually do anything about it. He just went and sulked about it. However, Ahab’s wife was even more wicked than he was. And she wrote letters to the leaders in the town that Naboth lived in telling them to make up false charges against Naboth *and kill him...* and then she signed the letter *with Ahab’s name*. What’s worse, the leaders actually obeyed! Then, when Naboth was dead...

15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

1 Kings 21:15-16

So, Ahab’s covetousness (which is idolatry per Col 3:5) not only blasphemed God (because he robbed Naboth of his inheritance from the Lord, YHVH) but also offended YHVH very much. And, while Ahab ‘celebrated’ his ‘victory’ over Naboth God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab to warn him what God’s judgment on the matter would be. *It was not good*. This shows us the timeless lesson that God indeed sees when the government becomes corrupt and what He does about it. So, while we might not see God’s wrath *immediately*, ***it does not mean He is not going***

to act. Our fleshly nature tends to make us want vengeance ‘right now’ but our Heavenly Father is much wiser than us and knows how to wait until *just the right time* to punish people. And so, He did with Ahab and Jezebel. As Elijah told Ahab...

21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,

22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.

23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

1 Kings 21:21-24

This judgment took a little while to come to pass but it did indeed come to pass. Because Jezebel had not only demanded that Naboth, but also his son (the next in line to inherit) murdered, God condemned Ahab’s *whole seed line to death*. And, He could do this because He knew they were all be as much of scoundrels as their parents. Had there been a good spirit in one of Ahab’s descendants, God would not have pronounced this judgment because God doesn’t make judgements of the sins of the father to pass down to their children *unless* their children *continue in their wicked ways* (Ezek 18, 33). And not only would Ahab and his sons be exterminated, so would Jezebel be killed; and in such a disgraceful way that the dogs would lick her blood. This is just one example of how we should trust our Heavenly Father to take vengeance in His own time and way. It will always be better than our thoughts and desires on the matter anyhow because He is wiser than us and sees more (all).

So, when those who are covetous, they abhor God Almighty in doing so. As such, God abhors them too! And He won’t put up with their treating His faithful servants wrongly. As Ps 11:5 says, *the LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence **his soul hateth***. So, let’s conclude this part 1 with another good reminder...

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Prov 16:6

We’ll pick it up in part 2...

AMEN.