

Part 4 – Breaking the Chains of Sin

In part 3 we learned another reason that *all* people should praise the Lord (YHVVH), which is because He is *so very* gracious to fill the hungry (to satisfaction) with ‘goodness’. And this applies both physically *and* spiritually. As David wrote, in Psalm 103 (when speaking of the many benefits our Heavenly Fathers gives us), the Lord (YHVVH) *does* give us good things to eat, *when* we love, and obey, Him faithfully. However, we also learned that, the *most important* ‘goodness’ we can be filled with is God’s Word! As Jesus so diligently taught, in John 6, even if we eat good physical food all the days of our flesh life, we will *still* die. In fact, Israel even at manna (which was food ‘from heaven’) but they too *still* died. Therefore, if we want to live *forever*, we must hunger *intensely* for the *only true* ‘goodness’ (good food) there is - and that is **truth**, which is found *only* in God’s Word (John 17:17). As Jesus said, those who hunger, and thirst, after righteousness, will be blessed; and that’s *because* they will be ‘filled’ (Matt 5:6) with the knowledge of God’s Word, which teaches us how to do what’s right. That’s why Jesus also said: *I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst* (John 6:35). Jesus is the ‘bread of life’ because He is the Living Word of God (John 1:1, 14), manifested in the flesh, to teach us truth (feed us spiritually, John 10) *and* atone for our sins (John 18:37; Eph 1:7). And that’s why the words He taught us (which is the Word of God) are what give us *spiritual* food and thus, they are what give us *eternal* life (John 6:63). So, while we only covered one verse in the last study, we well learned the *vital* importance of studying God’s Word (for ourselves) each and every day (2 Tim 2:15). For we truly need His Word (the truth, John 17:17) *each and every day* – more so even, than our flesh body needs physical food each day. So, let’s now take a look at what else the Psalmist has to say concerning *why* the good Lord (YHVVH) should be praised...

Psalm 107

10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

Now, let’s remember that, the last verse spoke of how the Lord (YHVVH) fills the hungry soul with goodness, which means He feeds us our *spiritual* daily food we need to obtain eternal life. Of course, that’s only IF we are sincerely study His Word, for ourselves, each day (2 Tim 2:15). Therefore, these verses explain what *can* make people *spiritually* hungry (although we truly *should* hunger for God’s Word every day; for that’s what helps to *motivate* us to study His Word each day!). The words ‘**such as sit**’ are one Hebrew word that means *to sit down* but, by implication can also mean *to dwell or remain* (#3427). So, this part would have been better rendered as ‘those who dwell in darkness’. And the word ‘**darkness**’ does mean *the dark* (or *darkness*) but, figuratively, can also mean *misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness* (#2822). And the words ‘**shadow of death**’ mean *shade of death*, i.e. *the grave* and, figuratively, can also mean *calamity* (#6757). Thus, the ‘shadow of death’ can even refer to our flesh life (Ps 23:4), because dying in the flesh is something we’ll *all* do eventually (Heb 9:27).

So, those who are intensely hungry (famished) are those who ‘sit’ (dwell in *and remain there*) in darkness (misery, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness and even destruction) *and* in the ‘shadow of death’ (even the sinful nature of our carnal mind that brings forth death, Rom 8:5-8). And, as Amos 8:11 says, the famine of the ‘latter days’ is *not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water; but of hearing the words of the LORD!*

Now, in the Bible, the Light is likened to *truth* (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 37:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) and **darkness is likened to lies** (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14). And God has separated the two through His Son, Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God (Acts 26:18, Isa 42:6-16, 60:1-4, John 1, Gen 1:2-5). Therefore, someone who cannot see truth is likened to a blind person who cannot see physical light (Ps 146:8, Ezek 12, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 42:7, 16-20, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:15, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). Thus, **someone who is ‘dwelling in darkness’ is also someone who cannot see the truth.** And that’s why they are ‘in the shadow of death’ because death still ‘hangs’ over them, even in the spiritual sense. Again, while we’ll all die in a flesh body (Heb 9:27) **we do not have to die spiritually.** For, because of the atonement, through Jesus Christ, we *can* live forever IF we sincerely accept (believe in) Jesus Christ (John 14:6), repent for our sins (and continue to do so as we see them) and strive to obey God’s Word *for the rest of our flesh life* (Rom 5:11; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15, etc.).

But, those who ‘dwell in darkness’ (believe in lies) often don’t come to the ‘light’ of Jesus Christ (truth that frees them, John 8:31-32) because they are ‘bound’ (held captive, #615) in ‘affliction’ (depression and misery, #6040) and ‘iron’ (chains, #1270). In other words, as Paul points out in Romans 6, we are a ‘servant’ (a slave, #1401) to what (or whom) we obey (Rom 6:16). And really there’s only two choices: we can either be a servant (slave) to sin (which brings forth death) or a servant (slave) to righteousness (which brings forth life eternal) (Deut 30:15-20; Rom 6:23). This point can easily be seen when looking at people who have a drug, or alcoholic, problem. Their addictions truly do enslave them. But there are *many other sins just as bad*; for things such as greed, pride, lust and envy (etc.) *also control us* just as firmly as alcohol and drugs. Even our emotions can be a ‘master’ over us *when we allow them to control us*. That’s why Gal 5:24 says that: *they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. In other words, the power of Jesus Christ within us (i.e. God’s Word and the Holy Spirit) will free us from the affections (emotions) and lusts that enslave us, *so long as* we remain *firmly committed* to learning, and obeying, God’s Word (and Holy Spirit).

So, what this boils down to is, when we *willingly* sin (habitually) we are (whether we realize it or not) a servant (slave) to our sins; and that ultimately means *we are a slave to Satan*, for he’s the ‘father’ of sin (1 John 3:8) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/308>]. But the other option is that we can be a servant (slave) to righteousness, which means we are a servant (slave) to Jesus Christ. However, *only one option* brings *life eternal* and that is serving Jesus Christ (John 17:3).

And this is why, when Jesus Christ appeared to Paul (on his way to Damascus), and gave Paul his commission, He said that Paul was to go preach the Gospel *to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me* (Acts 26:18). So, that's why those who 'sit in darkness' (dwell in sin and lies) are also dwelling in the 'shadow of death' (the threat of *spiritual* death hangs over them); it's because they are enslaved to sin (Satan and lies, Rom 6). And this is why the next verse goes on to say...

Psalm 107

11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High

While the prior verse explained what causes people to be spiritually hungry (vs 9), this verse now explains *why* they are enslaved to sin, in spiritual darkness *and* to the 'shadow of death' (vs 10). The word '**rebelled**' here means *to be* (or, *make*) **bitter** (or *unpleasant*); and, figuratively, it can also mean *to rebel* (or *resist*) and, causatively, it can even mean *to provoke* #4784). And the word '**words**' here simply means *something said* (#561); so the 'words of God' are what He has, literally, spoken. That's why John 1:1 says that the Word of God IS God. So, when we study God's written Word, we are literally getting insight into the way He thinks, as well as His emotions - even His *innermost* emotions! The books of the prophets are *especially* good at expressing God's emotions; for our Heavenly Father has *not* been shy (when speaking to us through the prophets) how He *really feels* and what He really wants! For example, our Heavenly Father tells us, in Jer 23 and Ezek 34, how angry He is at false prophets (and teachers) who do not fully teach His Word to His children. And in Jer 4:19-22 He explains how *deeply* it hurts Him to see His children be so foolish, i.e. so void of knowing (and *wanting* to) do what is right! Thus, we can see just *how much* our Heavenly Father loves us [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>] *and* how much it pleases Him *when* we study His Word and strive (sincerely) to obey Him. Yet, we can also see *how much* we (and our sins) hurt Him too! As the Holy Spirit wrote, through the prophet Micah, *and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?* (Mic 6:6-8).

Now then, the word '**God**' is the Hebrew word '**El**' (#410), and it means *strength* and *mighty*. And, while it can be used of *any* deity, it is also used to refer to *the Almighty God* who is *Omnipotent*. Thus, this 'title' ('El, #410) shows the Lord's (YHWH's) *strength, power and might*. 'El is thus the God Who knows all (first occ. Gen 14:18-22) and sees all (Gen 16:13) and that performeth all things for His people (Ps 57:2) and in Whom all the Divine attributes are concentrated. And that's likely *why* this 'title' is being used here; for the Psalmist is pointing out that, when people rebel against God, they are rebelling against the *Almighty* God, the one who has all power *over all things*. And the word '**contemned**' here means *to scorn* (#5006) and has also been rendered as *abhor*, *blaspheme* and *despise*. And the word '**counsel**' means *advice*, *plan* or even *prudence* (#6098). As Ps 111:10 says, *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:*

*a good understanding have all they that **do** his commandments!* And then the words ‘Most High’ are another ‘title’ for the Lord (YHVH). The word in the Hebrew is **‘Elyown** (sometimes spelled as **‘Elyon**) (#5945), which means an **elevation**, i.e. (adj.) **lofty**. And, as title of God it means, **the Supreme**. He is the ‘possessor of heaven and earth’ (Gen 14:18-20), Who divides the nations ‘their inheritance’ (Detu 32:8). In Ps 83:18, He is ‘over all the earth’. So, the use of this ‘title’ here points out the *insanity* of those who scorn (despise) God’s wisdom, for they truly are doing *so to their own destruction*; and the history of the children of Israel proves this point very well!

Psalm 107

12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

Now, when people rebel against God’s Word (because they despise it), what does He do? This verse tells us. The words **‘brought down’** here are one Hebrew word that means **to bend the knee**; hence, **to humiliate, vanquish** (#3665); it’s also been rendered as *bring down (low), into subjection, under, humble (self) and subdue*. So, it’s speaking of humbling those who are rebellious (those who despise His Word). And, while the Lord (YHVH) has done this many times, in many ways, throughout the thousands of years of this flesh ‘earth age’, He will do so in a *very powerful* (and complete) way when Jesus Christ returns. As it is written, when Jesus Christ returns, all knees *will* bow to Him **and** all tongues will be *forced* to confess that He *truly is* the King of kings and Lord of lords (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11-12; Phil 2:10-11). And then, the word **‘heart’** here (in Ps 107:12) does mean **the heart** but it’s often used (figuratively) for **the feelings, the will** and even **the intellect** (#3820). So, this verse is not speaking of our *physical* heart (that pumps blood for our flesh body) but the ‘heart’ of our ‘inner man’ (spirit). And, while our heart is a part of our intellect, it’s the part that has our will, which is why it can also mean the feelings (i.e. our desires, emotions, intentions and motivations). A good way to understand the difference between our heart and mind (which are both part of our spirit, i.e. intellect) is to consider how you may ‘know better’ than to sin *but* still ‘desire’ (or want to) sin! And that’s why loving our Heavenly Father takes *more* than just having a fond feeling for Him. It also takes the *desire to obey* Him *above that* of our own carnal desires. And that’s why, in order to truly love our Heavenly Father, we **must obey Him, from the heart** (Deut 6:4-18; John 14:15). That’s why Jesus said, *If a man love me, he will keep my words* (John 14:23).

Now, the word **‘labour’** (here in Ps 107:12) means **toil**, i.e. **wearing effort**; hence, it can also mean **worry**, whether of body or mind (#5999); and it comes from a prim root that means **to toil**, i.e. **work severely and with irksomeness** (#5998). So, when people get to be rebellious to God Almighty, and thus scorn His Word, He chastens them with ‘labour’, and this can be done in *many* ways. One of the most prevalent ways is that, no matter how much people work (or how many jobs they have) they simply cannot ‘make ends meet’ and they accumulate more and more debt, which truly makes them slaves in the physical sense. And that’s because *they don’t revere*

God's Words of wisdom. For, our Heavenly Father not only tells us (via His Law) to stay out of usury (Deut 23) but also *not to be greedy or covetous* (Ex 20:17). For lust (which fuels both greed and covetousness) *is not of the Father, but is of the world* (1 John 2:16) and is, therefore, what brings about the corruption of our heart, and mind (2 Peter 1:4). And, as Paul warns us in Col 3:5, covetousness is the same thing as idolatry! So, whatever is more important to us than our Heavenly Father, is an idol to us. As Jesus taught us, in Mth 6:33, we should seek (first and foremost) the Kingdom of God – and His righteousness – more than anything else in life. This simply means keeping our priorities straight in life. As Paul wrote, in 1 Tim 6:6, godliness with contentment *is great gain*! This means striving to do what's right (from the heart), and being content with what we have, is what brings 'great gain' both physically *and* spiritually. In other words, our lusts are not important in life (1 Pt 4:1-2) and we should work to crucify this part of us *each and every day* (Lk 9:23). But, if we don't, we'll have *many* problems, and that's what this verse 12 (here in Ps 107) is speaking of. While everyone does have problems in life [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/356>], those who strive to learn God's Word, and obey it *from the heart*, won't have **lots** of problems, *and* the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us deal with the problems that do pop up, from time to time. But, if you don't keep your priorities straight, you are not only going to have *many* worries, but also *many* troubles too.

And that's why this verse 12 goes on to say that *they fell down, and there was none to help*. The words '**fell down**' are one Hebrew word that means *to totter* or *waver* (through weakness of the legs, especially the ankle); and, by implication, it can also mean to *falter, stumble, faint or fall* (#3782). And the word '**help**' means *to surround, protect* or *aid* (#5826). So, those who rebel against God (because they despise His Word and thus, refuse to obey Him) will be brought down (humbled) with much labor (physically *and* spiritually). And thus, when they waver (or fall) there won't be anyone to help them. This truly has both a physical and spiritual aspect of it. For when people are burdened with a lot of debt, there's often no one to help them. For some kinds of loans (as many school loans) cannot be fixed simply by claiming 'bankruptcy'. And thus, some people can (and do) lose all that they've worked so hard for because they cannot pay their bills and/or their taxes. All because they despised God's words of wisdom (i.e. His Word). This is just one example, of many, of the physical ways we can fall down (waver), but there are many more.

However, it is the *spiritual* application of this that's most important. For people also 'fall down' in a *spiritual* sense, when they 'waver', which means they are *double minded* (James 1:8, 4:8). And people are double minded when they don't know how to control their carnal mind (Rom 8:5-8, Lk 9:23, Col 3:1-2, etc.). And that's also what causes people to rebel against God's Word. And this can be because they stumble at understanding God's Word – either because they don't know how to take God's Word back to the original language (via a Strong's Concordance) or because they listen to pastors who don't actually teach God's Word. Or, it can also be because they just don't study God's Word at all. Therefore, many people struggle with negative emotions such

as bitterness, anger, pride and lust (ect.), which is what hardens our heart to the truth and then causes them to sin (usually more and more). And that, in return, causes more and more troubles in their life! Therefore, there is truly no one to help them when they refuse to hear (and obey) God's Word, because of their hardened heart. And it's *exactly* what happened to the Israelites in the wilderness, which is why God condemned that generation to die in wilderness (Num 14). And that's why Paul admonishes us not to harden our heart to our Heavenly Father's calls to repent (Heb 2-4). Thankfully, our Heavenly Father truly is faithful to continue to chasten those He loves (Heb 12) so that eventually we will...

Psalms 107

13 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.

When we *finally* get tired of all our troubles and misery, and *finally* cry out to the Lord, YHVH (sincerely), our Heavenly Father is *so very* gracious to help us. That's actually the entire point of his chastising us! As Paul explains, in Heb 12:6-11, while chastening is hard to go through, **if** we respond in the *right* way (sincere repentance) then He does forgive us *and will help us*. And that's what will eventually produce *peaceable fruit of righteousness*, within us, which (again) is the whole point for God's chastening us! Now, if you will recall, this verse is actually a repeat of verse 6 (exactly, 'to the letter'). And, whenever something (in the Bible) is repeated, it's done *for emphasis*. As such, the more it's repeated, the **more emphasis** there is to the point being made! Which is why it's important to know that this verse will be repeated *four more times* (quadruple the emphasis) in this Psalm! So, there's an **incredible emphasis** on the fact that, when we sincerely cry out to the Lord (YHVH, #3068) for help, He's *always* faithful to help us. But, that's *only if* we are *truly* sincere. There's no fooling God. If we're not truly willing to face or sins, repent for them and work to change them (from the heart) then our Heavenly Father will simply continue to chasten us until we are ready to truly repent. But, He will truly always hear us when we are sincere.

And there is perhaps no better of an example of this than the wicked king of Judah, Manasseh. As 2 Kings 21, and 2 Chron 33 tell us, he did *that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel*. And that is despite that his father, Hezekiah, was a righteous king who spent his entire time ruling Israel trying hard to clean things up. Yet Manasseh undid everything his father had done and worse yet, he 'secuded' Israel to do things *worse* than the heathen nations who lived in the 'Promise Land' before them (2 Kings 21:9)! And, when he (and the others in the southern kingdom refused to hear God's prophets who called them to repent, God *brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon* (2 Chron 33:10). However, when he was in bondage, an amazing thing happened. Manasseh actually *besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers and prayed to Him*. And how did the Lord

(YHVH) respond? He *heard* Manasseh's *supplication*, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God! Manasseh then spent the rest of his life working to 'clean up' all the evil that he had done before (2 Chron 33:15-17)! So, if you think you've done some so many 'bad things' in your life that God would never forgive you, remember this! For this man (Manasseh) was surely the most wicked king of Israel *ever*, but God forgave Him *because he was sincere* and his actions (after God forgave, and freed him from captivity) proved the sincerity of his heart! And that just goes to show that our Heavenly Father's goodness (grace), and mercy, truly does 'endureth forever' (Ps 107:1), which is why the next verse goes on to say...

Psalms 107

14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

While a hardened (rebellious) heart is what causes us to dwell in darkness, and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10-11), a *truly* repentant heart is what will cause the Lord (YHVH) to bring us out of that filth. The words '**brought them out**' here simply mean *to go* (or *bring out*) (#3318) and the word '**darkness**' again means *the dark* (or *darkness*) but, figuratively, can also mean *misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness* (#2822). And the words '**shadow of death**' still mean *shade of death*, i.e. *the grave* and, figuratively, can also mean *calamity* (#6757). So, 'shadow of death' can even refer to our flesh life (Ps 23:4) because dying in the flesh is something we'll *all* do eventually (Heb 9:27), yet it also refers to the spiritual death (Rev 20:10-15) that looms over those who refuse to accept (and obey) Jesus Christ. So, our Heavenly Father is *incredibly* gracious (and merciful) to bring us out of darkness (blindness to the truth, misery, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness and destruction) and the 'shadow of death' (death, even the fleshly nature of our carnal mind that brings forth spiritual death) ... *when we sincerely* repent! In fact, He'll even '**break**' (*tear off*, #5423) our '**bands**' (*chastisement*, i.e. (by implication) a *halter*; figuratively, *restraint*, #4147) '**in sunder**' (*tear off*, #5423).

Again, the example of the wicked king Manasseh's *sincere* repentance (when he was literally in physical chains and bondage) is an incredibly good example of this. But this 'breaking our bands in sunder' is also *spiritual* as well. For, as we learned before, when we sin willfully (habitually sinning, i.e. not caring about doing what's right or obeying God) we are in bondage to it (as Romans 6 so well explains). And that ultimately means we are a slave to Satan, for those who *committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning*. However, *for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8)! So, not only does the blood of Jesus Christ atone for our sins (Rom 5:11-21; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15) but, the truth (God's Word, John 17:17) is *what* brings us out of the *spiritual* darkness to lies and deception, which Satan is also the 'father' of (John 8:44). In fact, Jesus Himself (along with Paul in Rom 6) even said that *whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin* (John 8:34).

However, Jesus also explained that: *If ye continue in my word, **then** are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free* (John 8:31-32). The word ‘free’ here means *to liberate* but, figuratively, it also means *to exempt from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability* (#1659). That means, the truth frees our spirit from the slavery to sin because, when we know the detriments of sin (that it leads to death, Rom 6:23) we willingly repent and strive to change our ways to obey God’s Word (from the heart) so we can obtain eternal life! But, being ‘free’ – through Jesus Christ – *also* means we are freed from performing the ordinances of the law, which are the blood sacrifices (Col 2:14; Eph 2:15) that God commanded to be performed until the ‘time of reformation’ (Heb 9:10), which was when Jesus Christ came to shed His blood (once and for all times, Heb 10:10) to atone for our sins. The other parts of the Law, such as the Ten commandments, Judgments and Statutes (that don’t pertain to the blood sacrifices) should still be obeyed, *but* they still are not what ‘saves’ us, i.e. what atones for our sins. They are simply what helps us to learn to obey the Lord (YHVH) so we can be blessed by Him (Deut 28; Mth 5). Further, this word ‘free’ comes from a word that means *unrestrained* (to go at pleasure), i.e. (*as a citizen*) *not a slave* (whether freeborn or manumitted), or (genitive case) exempt (from obligation or liability) (#1658). Another important word to understand (here in John 8:31) is ‘continue’ (as in IF we ‘continue’ in Jesus’ Word), for it means *to stay, in a given place, state, relation or expectancy* (#3306). It’s the same word rendered as ‘abide’ in John 15 when Jesus said we must ‘abide’ in Him and He in us [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1273>] if we want to obtain eternal life. And this word is also used frequently, elsewhere, by Jesus (John 12:46, 14:6) and John too (1 John 2:24, 27-28, 4:13).

So, that means we must *continue* to keep our mind firmly focused on God’s Word (not fleshly inclinations) **if** we want to *remain* spiritually free from the bondage that sin, lies and Satan keep us in! Therefore, our Heavenly Father truly does have the power to save us (physically and spiritually) *but it’s up to us* to call out to Him (in sincere repentance) *and to continue to obey Him* the rest of our lives [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/420>], IF we want to ‘continue’ in His Word so we can continue to be ‘free’ spiritually, which is what saves us from *spiritual* death. And this is thought (of freedom from ‘darkness’ *and* the ‘shadow of death’) is what causes the Psalmist to *again* say...

Psalm 107

15 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

So, the Psalmist repeats what he wrote in verse 8, *verbatim*. And the reason is to give *emphasis* to his ‘wish’ that all men (people everywhere) would praise (worship) the Lord (YHVH), for all the good things He does for us *and* for His wonderful works He’s done for us - which have been

many throughout the *many* of years of this earth age [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/488>].
The Psalmist will continue to use this phrase two more times throughout this great Psalm...

Psalm 107

16 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

And now we see *why* the Psalmist wished (the second time) for all men (people everywhere) to praise (worship) the Lord (YHVH). Not only does He lead us in the ‘right way’ (teaching us how to do what’s right so we can live with Him forever) - as verse 7 pointed out, after the first time he ‘wished’ all men would praise the Lord, YHVH – but He has also broken (burst, #7665) the ‘gates of brass’ and ‘cut’ (destroyed, #1438) the ‘bars of iron in sunder’. The ‘brass gates’ and the ‘bars of iron’ (made of metal) are simply things used to keep people in *physically* in bondage. And, while being freed physically is *wonderful*, Israel’s time in the wilderness shows that, if we are not freed *internally* (spiritually), then **we will willingly ‘sell ourselves’ back into slavery!** As Numbers 14 well documents, Israel was (at one point in time) so rebellious and hard hearted (from the ‘evil report’ of the ten spies, who spied out the Promise Land) that they were ready to appoint a *new* leader who would take them back to Egypt (vs 4)! That is to say, they would rather live in *cruel* bondage (where they were *forced* into terribly hard labor *and* had their male babes murdered) than to live as servants to the Lord (YHVH) *who was going to lead them into the Promise Land*, where they would be free from cruel bondage! This again reiterates the fact that we will *always* be a servant (slave) - either to sin (Satan, lies and death) or to righteousness (Jesus Christ, truth and life). And, only **one** of them brings forth *life eternal*...

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

*22 But now **being made free from sin, and become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 6:20-23

***Stand fast therefore in the liberty** wherewith **Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Gal 5:1

We’ll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.